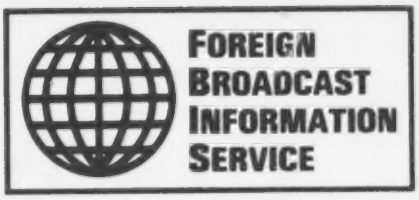

Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-152
Monday
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Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-152 *8 August 1994*

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Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Uzbek Council Meets in Almaty

LD0508171694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 5 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] The Council of Heads of Government of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, a body that had been set up by presidents of the three countries at their meeting in Almaty in early July in the framework of a trilateral treaty on common economic space, had its first meeting in Bishkek Friday.

The meeting approved the terms of reference for the Central Asian Bank for Cooperation and Development. Its first president, Satybaldy Sazanov, b. 1941, was the first deputy chairman of Kazakhstan's Alembank.

IF Note: The bank's equity capital is $9 million, $3 million from each country. Its goal is to attract considerable foreign investment into the region. It will have the main office in Almaty, the Kazakh capital, and branches in Bishkek and Tashkent.

The nominations of deputy chairmen of the Inter-State Council's Executive Committee, its budget and personnel of 15 people were improved [as received].

IF Note: The Inter-State Council includes the presidents and prime ministers of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. It incorporates the Council of Heads of State dealing with economic matters, the Council of Foreign Ministers coordinating the foreign policies and the Council of Defense Ministers to work on improvement of the regional stability. The chairmanship of the Executive Committee headquartered in Almaty will rotate every three years. The committee is now chaired by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev who has three permanent deputies, one from each country. The Executive Council's personnel will report quarterly to the heads of state on implementation of decisions.

The prime ministers, Sergey Tereshchenko of Kazakhstan, Apas Jumagulov of Kyrgyzstan and Abdulkhoshim Mutalov of Uzbekistan initialed the terms of reference for the Council of Foreign Ministers and the Council of Defense Ministers of the three countries. These documents will be submitted to the heads of state when they have their next meeting.

The three governments also signed an agreement on cooperation in the field of pharmacology and public health, aimed at overcoming the acute shortage of medicinal drugs and equipment.

The prime ministers ordered their economic ministers to work out within two months a program of closer economic integration of the three countries.

Tereshchenko emphasized at a joint news conference the importance of the meeting which, he said, must give an impetus to the national economies, contribute to their stabilization and boost the integration processes.

He believed that support for integration in the three countries was strong in all the three countries even thought the conditions in them were not equal.

Tereshchenko said that the goal of the common economic space was to create jobs, support the existing businesses and launch new ones and assure supply of essential goods. This was what the Bank for Cooperation and Development is needed for, he said

Jumagulov believed that the bank had to be the next integration step. He said that production cooperation, joint ventures and a market of stocks were the essential ingredients of integration.

Jumagulov emphasized that economic integration was designed to help the most promising economic sectors which could export their produce to markets outside Central Asia.

Mutalov said that the Council of Heads of Government and the Executive Committee would supervise implementation of direct agreements between the three republics to enable the businesses to interact without the aid of governments.

The three heads of state are to meet next time in mid-September.

Central Asian Prime Ministers Discuss Integration

LD0508123994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0720 GMT 5 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[Text] Bishkek, 5 Aug—The first session of the Council of Prime Ministers of Kazakhstan, Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan], and Uzbekistan devoted its work to creating a real mechanism for the integration of the countries of Central Asia. Taking part in the work of the forum are Sergey Tereshchenko, prime minster of Kazakhstan, Apas Dzhumagulov, head of government in Kirghizia, and Abdulkhashim Mutalov, prime minister of Uzbekistan.

On the agenda is the signing of the statute on the Councils of Ministers, and on foreign affairs and defense, confirmation of the estimate of expenditure on an interstate apparatus and other issues. S. Tereshchenko proposed starting the work of today's session on examination of the regulations of the Central Asian Bank for Cooperation and Development. A chairman of the bank was immediately elected. He is Sazarmov, one of the present heads of Kazakhstan's Agricultural Bank. A meeting of the prime ministers of the three countries of Central Asia with Askar Akayev, president of Kirghizia, is scheduled for today.

Tereshchenko Views Results of Meeting

LD0608042394 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0330 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Questions of developing economic integration between Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan were

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discussed at the meeting of the heads of government of the three Central Asian states in Bishkek. As Kazakh Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko told journalists, the participants in the meeting approved statutes on the setting up of a Central Asian Bank and appointed its president and agreed on the conditions of the activities of the executive committee of the interstate council being set up in Bishkek, Almaty, and Tashkent. Among its tasks is the coordination of the activities of the economic departments of the three countries. The heads of governments also drew up a number of documents which will be examined by the presidents of the three republics. They are all aimed at expanding integration between Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan.

Baltic-Black Sea Conference Slams 'Russian Imperialism'

MM0508122194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Anatoliy Polyakov: "Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation Ready. Incumbent Ukrainian Leadership Doing a Great Deal To Improve Relations with Russia"]

[Text] Kiev—According to Leonid Kuchma, a treaty on friendship and cooperation with Russia is almost ready and should be signed in Kiev. Oleksandr Moroz said that conferring official status on the Russian language would not mean any violations of Ukrainian legislation.

The warming of Russian-Ukrainian relations is clearly not to the opposition's liking. Parliamentary parties from countries in the Baltic-Black Sea region have held a conference on the initiative of the Ukrainian Republican Party [URP]. Honorary URP Chairman, 66-year old Levko Lukyanenko, said that the delegates are united by a spirit of opposition to "Russian imperialism." While Latvian representative Visvabish Brikmanis said that the Russians pose a threat to all Europe—from the Black Sea to the Baltic Sea. It turns out that there are plenty of forces which clearly do not like the improvement in relations between the two countries.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 6 Aug

LD0608074594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0631 GMT 6 Aug 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow August 6 TASS—Most mass media organs express serious concern today over the situation around the Chechen republic.

"Chechnya has become a hotbed of tension in Russia," ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA writes. "If the president is isolated from the people, a civil war is out of the question." Edu Kazlaev, deputy mayor of the Nadterechny district and assistant to chairman of the provisional council Umar Avturkhanov on military matters, told a ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA correspondent in a telephone interview (the Nadterechny district boycotted the presidential elections, and its residents continue to maintain that they are in opposition to the Dudayev regime). Kazlaev said firmly that the opposition by no means intended to come to power through the use of violence. However, "despite peace assurances of the opposing parties, the situation in Chechnya is getting more and more tense," the newspaper points out.

"The disintegrating regime in Chechnya is creating today a direct threat to Russia's security." Aleksandr Golts, a KRASNAYA ZVEZDA observer, writes.

"The situation in Groznyy is calm at the moment, but the string has been tightened to the extreme," Nikolay Kozhanov, an observer, writes in PRAVDA. "The most dangerous thing in the current Chechen crisis would be to resort to ultimatums. After that one step will be left to firing the first shot, which will set ablaze everything."

According to IZVESTIYA, "the Kremlin's attempts to clamp down on the rebel Dudayev and to make him act in line with the Russian order trigger a fighting spirit in the offices of the presidential palace in Groznyy."

Valeriy Vyzhutovich from IZVESTIYA was the first correspondent, to whom leader of the provisional council Umar Avturkhanov gave an interview shortly after arriving illegally from Moscow to the Nadterechny district.

The opposition leader said that the provisional council had begun the formation of the government and that a peaceful transition of power from Dudayev to the provisional council would be done with the help of the Russian money, first in the Nadterechny district, for whose support two billion roubles have already been allocated, then everywhere. Avturkhanov is sure that the period of dual power will not last long, because real power belongs to those who are capable of protecting the population.

"Although the situation is really complex, there is a real chance for settling the Chechen crisis by peaceful, political means, including by what I can do personally," says a statement of Ruslan Khasbulatov, corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, published by SOVETSKAYA ROSSIA. He urged "all the parties concerned, primarily the Russian federal authorities and legislators," to help him resolve the "acute problems connected with the Chechen crisis."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA publishes a statement of President Yeltsin, following the adoption by the Latvian sejm of the discriminatory law on citizenship. The material is entitled "Latvia Has Taken to the Path of Ethnic Purges by Parliamentary Means. Russia Will Not Tolerate It." Commenting on the Russian president's statement, the newspaper's observer Sergey Knyazkov writes: "Unfortunately, Latvia demonstrated once again that the forces, which are advocating national intolerance and wishing to force ethnic Russians by all possible means to leave

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the republic 'voluntarily', are getting an upper hand in its political life... It is true that the Latvian nation is a small one. However, it looks hardly possible that the pro-Nazi methods of national regulation will help it flourish. Latvians themselves must feel uncomfortable, because their leaders are treating them as a herd—from the point of view of veterinary selection."

IZVESTIYA also carries a commentary on this subject. It says that the new crisis in the Russian-Latvian relations may frustrate hopes for their normalisation, that emerged after "Moscow and Riga settled at last the problem of time limits for the withdrawal of Russian troops."

Two years ago, on August 10, President Yeltsin signed a decree on the creation of the military-space force as an armed service. Lieutenant General Anatoliy Kvashnin, first deputy head of the main department for current operations at the general staff, describes in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA how the force was created and in what condition it is today. Concluding the article, he points out that "the use of space systems and complexes of the Russian Defence Ministry for ensuring the security of the state and for implementing national and international space programmes is a powerful factor promoting the stabilisation of the international situation ..."

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA refutes rumours circulated by the mass media that Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th Army deployed in the Dniester region, will allegedly be removed from his post after the disbandment of the army by September 1. Colonel Vladimir Nikanorov, deputy head of the press and information department of the Russian Defence Ministry, explained to the newspaper's correspondent that "decisions on the appointment of army commanders and their removal from the posts are taken not by the defence minister, but by the president. The disbandment of the 14th Army is not on the agenda today."

A KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA correspondent, who did not especially trust the refutation of the Defence Ministry press service, made a telephone call to the 14th Army commander, who is now on holiday. General Lebed said with the forthrightness typical of him: "There was no reason to fire me just like that. So, they decided to pull the army from under my feet under the pretext of its reorganisation."

The scandal with the MMM investment company and its President Sergey Mavrodi continues to be in the focus of attention of the press. Moscow's public prosecutor Gennadiy Ponomarev said in a telephone interview with NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA that the release of the MMM president depends on the results of the interrogation of Sergey Mavrodi himself and his aides, as well as of the examination of the confiscated documents. "The impression is that the country now has another hero in disgrace and the defender of people's interests," IZVESTIYA writes not without irony.

International sections of newspapers carry reports on the situation in Bosnia, a meeting in the White House between the Israeli prime minister and the king of Jordan, the difficulties facing Russian specialists who are working in Algeria, the return home of a former Soviet spy, as well as publications from Spanish, German, Mexican and British magazines.

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Foreign Ministry Statement on NATO Action in Bosnia

LD0508185794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1849 GMT 5 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow August 5 TASS—The Russian Foreign Ministry is deeply concerned over the events reported tonight from the Sarajevo zone. (We remind that approximately at 8 p.m. Moscow time ITAR-TASS reported from London with a reference to a representative of the NATO headquarters in Brussels that the NATO aviation delivered a blow at ground facilities of Bosnian Serbs in Bosnia and Herzegovina).

A statement of the Russian Foreign Ministry's representative received by ITAR-TASS says that "such outbursts may only complicate the political efforts now that the process of peace settlement of the Bosnian crisis has been intensified".

"Regrettably, the Serbs themselves gave occasion to these developments. The Serbs seem to have acted on a principle 'the worse the better'", says the statement.

Air Strikes 'Provoked' by Bosnian Serbs

LD0608140794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1227 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow does not rule out that provocative actions by the Bosnian Serbs around Sarajevo aimed at sounding out world community mood.

As a senior Russian foreign ministry official declared in an interview with Interfax Saturday, NATO's air strikes delivered on the Bosnian Serbs positions Friday at a UN request were to dispel the last doubts in the world community's resolve.

"Air strikes are not the best way to settle relations, but, judging by reports, they were provoked by Bosnian Serbs," he noted.

In the diplomat's words, "it is high time for the Bosnian Serbs to realize that time of persuasion has gone, and they must clearly say 'yes' or 'no' to the Contact Group's plan for a settlement in Bosnia."

In his opinion, there can be a different explanation to the incident. "It is not ruled out that field commanders begin to get out of the political leaders control. Such a suggestion is borne out by an apology brought by the Chairman of the Bosnian Serbs parliament Momcilo Krajisnik for what happened," he said.

The diplomat confirmed that Russia "has frozen" contacts with the Bosnian Serbs leaders.

Yet, this does not mean that all contacts with them have been terminated. Moscow has been in touch with Belgrade as it believes that it is for all the Serbs rather than those in Bosnia to decide whether to approve the contact group's plan or not. Moscow hopes that the Bosnian Serbs will heed the voice of Serbia's President Slobodan Milosevich, who has unequivocally backed the peace initiative.

The diplomat underlined that "if the Bosnian Serbs make the right choice, they can rely on support from Moscow."

Shumeyko Welcomes Return of Heavy Guns

LD0708173294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1308 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow August 7 TASS—Russia will direct all of its efforts to solving the Bosnian conflict by diplomatic means through negotiations, Russian Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko said.

In an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS on Sunday, Shumeyko said that "Russia's position on the issue has always been very clear—no conflict can be solved by punishing one of the sides."

On Friday, Bosnian Serbs seized several heavy guns from a U.N.-protected depot near Sarajevo, forcing NATO aircraft to retaliate with air strikes on their positions. On Saturday, the Bosnian Serbs returned the seized guns.

Russia welcomes the Bosnian Serbs's decision and hopes that they "will refrain from any provocative actions in the future and will direct their efforts to pursuing a peaceful settlement of the conflict in accordance with the Contact Group's proposals," a Russian Foreign Ministry official said.

"We invite all and everyone to show maximum restraint, resist provocations and avoid any actions which could aggravate the peace process at this crucial stage," the official said.

Surrender of Arms Examined

LD0708181694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1745 GMT 7 Aug 94

["Analysis" by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Moscow August 7 TASS—The Bosnian Serbs's decision to return the guns they seized from a U.N.-protected depot near Sarajevo on Friday gives grounds to believe that the incident is settled.

The move has helped ward off the threat of further air strikes on Bosnian Serb positions and confirmed the UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] commanders' intention to avoid unnecessary escalation of violence and confrontation in the region. This allows the international community and those involved in the conflict to preserve the "positive expectation" approach toward the Bosnian crisis.

What makes the incident even more regrettable is that it occurred at a crucial stage of conflict settlement. The

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multi-national contact group comprising representatives of Russia, the United States and the European Union has presented the Bosnian Serbs with a peace plan, which is viewed by the world community as a real and effective way to put an end to the 28-month bloody conflict in the former Yugoslavia. This plan is now on the Bosnian Serb leaders' table.

Under the plan, the Serbs will receive 49 per cent of the territory in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the rest would go to the Moslem-Croat Federation.

If the sides accept the plan, the international community would provide the necessary security guarantees and lift the U.N. sanctions that have devastated the economy of Serbia and Montenegro. This is one of the scenarios provided for by a draft resolution that is now being worked out by the U.N. Security Council at Russia's initiative. The other one calls for tightening the sanctions if the plan is rejected.

It is an important sign that Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic who represents the interests of the Serb community has distanced himself from provincial Bosnian Serb leaders and supported the peace plan.

In the focus of international attention remains the position of Bosnian Serbs who have already isolated themselves even from the Serb majority. The Bosnian Serb parliament in Pale which has rejected the plan three times is expected to convene again within the next two days to discuss further actions. Parliament Speaker Momcilo Krajisnic does not rule out the possibility that the legislators may "declare a state of war, general mobilisation and rationed supplies."

Should they do so, the Bosnian Serbs would once again show the world community that they have ignored the lessons of this week's incident that the policy of aggravating the conflict is pointless and that they remain committed to the principle "the worse, the better."

A political settlement provides the only way to resolve the Balkan crisis. "We invite all and everyone to show maximum restraint, resist provocations and avoid any actions which could aggravate the peace process at this crucial stage," a Russian Foreign Ministry official said on Saturday.

Russian Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko pointed out on Sunday that Russia will direct all of its efforts to solving the Bosnian conflict by diplomatic means through negotiations.

In an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS, Shumeyko said that "Russia's position on the issue has always been very clear—no conflict can be solved by punishing one of the sides."

Russia and the international community remain hopeful that the steps taken by the Bosnian Serbs and the United Nations in order to stamp out the fire and prevent the incident from developing into a long-term destabilising factor will direct the events in the region into a positive channel.

Zhirinovskiy Urges NATO Payment for Damage

LD0608154894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1440 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] During his conversation with journalists Saturday leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia Vladimir Zhirinovskiy proposed to force NATO countries to compensate the damage inflicted to the Bosnian Serbs by the bombardments.

In Zhirinovskiy's words, Italy, where NATO's military bases are stationed, "will have to answer for its accompliceship in the war against the Slavic people."

Speaking at a meeting in Moscow the same day, Zhirinovskiy declared that "having rehearsed military operations on the Bosnian Serbs, the West will move its forces to Russia as it was in 1941."

He also underlined that "the attempts to disband the 14th army in Transdniestria will aggravate the situation" because "certain forces will move from Romania against us." "Zhirinovskiy believes that the parliament should not have adjourned for recess under this situation."

Zhirinovskiy reported to his supporters that he had travelled "throughout the whole Russia—from Kaliningrad to the Far East—and has not heard anywhere about the support to the existing regime." He predicts that acts of protests and strikes would start throughout the country in September-October.

According to Zhirinovskiy, "a generation of easily-controlled half-wit patriots grew up knowing nothing but Snickers chocolate bars and chewing gum".

Yeltsin's anti-gangsterism decree failed to work, Zhirinovskiy said, and Russia was turning into a country of crime on the order of Latin American democracies. To eliminate crime, the government must forbid Commonwealth citizens to enter Russia without a visa, purge the police and replace the Minister of Internal Affairs Viktor Yerin, and set up military tribunals in some areas of the Russian Federation.

Zhirinovskiy envisioned three turns of domestic developments. Either the left-wing forces would carry the next elections and Russia would return to Communist rule, or today's leaders would retain power, or else, he said, the Liberal Democratic Party would come to power to restore order and resurrect the economy and power structures.

If his party won the elections, he would bring "Russian boys back home from the world's flashpoints and Russian girls back home from the world's red light streets".

Zhirinovskiy held "a new gang of four—Shokhin, Kozyrev, Chubays and Shakhray"—responsible for what was happening in Russia.

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The rally brought together some 500 people.

Foreign Ministry Statement Supports Milosevic Stance

LD0508155394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1325 GMT 5 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow August 5 TASS—A statement of the Russian Foreign Ministry has been received by ITAR-TASS to run as follows:

"The recent statements of the Serb leaders on their approval of the peace plan and the decision of the Yugoslav government on efficient influence on Pale remove all doubts Belgrade is ready to help political settlement of the Bosnian conflict in accordance with the policy of the international community.

"Moscow fully supports the policy of Serb leader Slobodan Milosevic that corresponds to the key interests of all the Serbs and aims at the soonest implementation of the peace plan on Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"The stubborn refusal of provincial Bosnian Serb leaders from political settlement is even more unacceptable against this background. These leaders thus clearly associate themselves with the party of war.

"The political stand declared by Belgrade and its initial measures to dissociate from Pale should be given an adequate estimation on the part of the international community which is interested in the soonest peaceful settlement of the Bosnian conflict," says the statement.

Kozyrev Welcomes Belgrade's Stand

LD0508135794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1325 GMT 5 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 5 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—Resolute support for Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic's policy for the speediest implementation of the peace plan in Bosnia-Herzegovina was expressed today in a statement by the Russian Foreign Ministry which has reached ITAR-TASS. It points out that this course meets the fundamental interests of all Serbs. The Russian Foreign Ministry welcomes Belgrade's readiness to exert an effective influence on the Bosnian Serb leaders in Pale.

"The political position stated by Belgrade and the implementation of the specific measures which it has begun to distance itself from Pale," the Russian Foreign Ministry states, "should receive a similar appraisal from the world community which is interested in the speediest solution to the conflict in Bosnia by peaceful means."

Churkin Views Milosevic Reaction to Plan

LD0508161394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1412 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Russia hails Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic's decision not to follow the Bosnian Serbs' lead with regard to the contact group's peace plan.

On Friday Russian special envoy Vitaliy Churkin told Interfax that Milosevic's decision proved that the peace plan met the interests of the Serbs, including those in Bosnia.

According to Churkin, Milosevic was "The most legitimate Serb leader. His stand did play a role. Russia hopes other Serb leaders, including the leaders of the Bosnian Serb community, will appreciate it."

Churkin said that moves to introduce new anti-Belgrade sanctions now that Belgrade had accepted the peace plan made no sense. He saw "some disbalance there" and said Moscow bore it in mind.

He also said that in line with the Geneva accords the international community was considering both the introduction of new sanctions against Belgrade and the lifting of the anti-Belgrade sanctions.

"Let's wait and see," Churkin said. Moscow and its western partners wanted to see action on Milosevic's decision to break up relations with the Bosnian Serbs. So far there were more questions than answers, he said.

Asked what else Belgrade would be expected to do for the lifting of the international sanctions, Churkin said the contact group had considered the closing of the border with, and the suspension of aid to, the Bosnian Serbs. And the western members of the contact group saw the deployment of international observers on the Yugoslavia-Bosnia border as a necessary guarantee for the lifting of the anti-Belgrade sanctions.

Churkin said Russia could send observers to the Yugoslavia-Bosnia border but Belgrade took a negative view of the observer idea.

In the three years of the war in Bosnia cynicism had became all-pervading, he said, and, instead of putting trust in official statements, everyone preferred to see what happened.

He said he personally believed Belgrade would keep its word. In the next few days or weeks the international community would be able to appreciate Belgrade's new position, Churkin said.

According to Churkin, Russian efforts accounted, in great measure, for the change in Yugoslav policy. The recent visits to Belgrade by the Russian Foreign and Defense Ministers had contributed to this, he said.

Churkin indicated that Moscow was freezing relations with the Bosnian Serb leaders.

He said there was little to discuss with them. The latest sitting of the Bosnian Serb parliament showed, he said, the Bosnian Serb community had taken a stand of its own.

Diplomat: Bosnian Muslim Demand 'Unacceptable'

LD0808141294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1324 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] The Bosnian Muslims' demand for creating a united state of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and for locating

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peacekeeping forces along its borders cannot be accepted by the world community, a high-ranking Russian diplomat told INTERFAX on Monday. He said this demand could undermine the settlement. "The Muslims had raised this question before, but the Contact Group invariably put them in their place," he said.

He expressed the opinion that after Belgrade changes it attitude to the Bosnian Serbs, the Muslims and Croats will try to manipulate the situation. "It's not ruled out that they will resort to aggressive combat operations to arouse pity on the part of the world public on the one hand and to create problems for President Slobodan Milosevic in Serbia on the other," he said.

The Serbian president's decision to distance himself from the Bosnian Serbs, who are refusing to accept the plan proposed by the contact group, is a courageous step in the right direction, said the Russian diplomat.

It is important to influence the world public and the governments of our Western partners so they understand at last that Belgrade is really working to restore peace, and it would be more than illogical in such a situation to toughen sanctions against Yugoslavia, he said.

In his opinion, it will be difficult to do so. First, the power of inertia is too strong and, second, proof must be provided of changes in the position of Belgrade. The Serbs are trying to provide them, but we are short of time, he said.

He gave to understand that Russia would try to put off the discussion of sanctions in the UN Security Council.

Russian Troops Ordered to Barracks in Dniester Area

LD0508115294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1122 GMT 5 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow August 5 TASS—Commissioned and non-commissioned officers from Russian military units in Tiraspol, the administrative centre of the breakaway Dniester republic (constituent part of Moldavia [Moldova]) which guard communications and munitions depots, were ordered to barracks this Friday.

Colonel Mikhail Bergman, Tiraspol military commandant, told ITAR-TASS by telephone that this order was prompted by the aggravated situation connected with the fate of the 14th Russian Army deployed in the Dniester area.

The Russian mass media circulated reports on Thursday on possible demotion from his post of Commander of the 14th Army Aleksandr Lebed, thanks to whose efforts the war conflict in the Dniester area was stopped.

According to Bergman, officers are worried over a possible withdrawal from the self-proclaimed Dniester republic of the Russian peacekeepers. In their opinion, the 14th Army plays a stabilising role in the region. Officers believe that the army's pullout and a change of its commanding officers in the near future will be premature.

Ministry Denies Army Confinement

LD0608103094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0738 GMT 6 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Aug—The officers and warrant officers of Russia's combined-arms 14th Army, deployed in the Dniester region, have not been confined to barracks and the 14th Army's degree of battle alert has not been altered. An ITAR-TASS correspondent learned this at the Russian Defense Ministry's Information and Press Directorate following a number of media reports on 5 August that officers and warrant officers of the units and elements of the 14th Army have been confined to barracks.

At the Defense Ministry's news service, it was stressed that this allegation does not correspond to reality. The situation in the Army today is quiet and businesslike and the subunits are undergoing routine military training.

14th Army Council Denies Lebed Resignation Reports

LD0608154394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1433 GMT 6 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS free-lance correspondent Anatoliy Kholodyuk]

[Text] Tiraspol August 6 TASS—The military council of the Russian 14th Army stationed in the Moldovan Trans-Dniester Region refuted today reports claiming the soonest disbandment of the army headquarters and several subordinated units, and the removal of army commander Lieutenant-General Aleksandr Lebed from his post. The reports also claimed the creation of an operative group on the basis of the army.

A statement of the military council circulated here on Saturday described the press reports as "unconfirmed inventions". It is just the matter of "proposals on correspondence of the army command to the real strength of Russian troops stationed in the Trans-Dniester region," says the document. General Lebed is on a regular vacation.

In its turn, the Russian Defence Ministry refuted reports claiming that officers and warrant officers of the Russian 14th Army have been moved to the barracks. Sources at the Ministry's Information and Press Department told ITAR-TASS, the situation in the 14th Army "is tranquil and working, and the army units are on regular combat training".

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Lebed on 'Pretext' of 14th Army 'Reorganization'

LD0608145694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1134 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow August 6 TASS—"There was no reason to fire me just like that. As is known, real heroes choose roundabout ways. So, they decided to pull the army from under my feet on the pretext of its reorganisation," General Lebed, commander of the 14th Russian Army, said in an interview with KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, commenting on the directive of the defence minister about the disbandment of his army.

He mentioned a plan, however, under which the army will remain in the Dniester region for some time to come, but will be reduced by 20 per cent.

Responding to the question, whether anybody explained to him what was the reason for that decision, General Lebed said: "No one can give a coherent answer. I had a conversation with Colonel General Vladimir Semyonov, commander-in-chief of the ground forces. The impression is that this strange directive was so much a surprise for him as for me."

According to Lebed, if the directive is put into effect, "the Dniester region will be plunged into a state of war. Unrest will be started, weapons will be captured, the situation will become unpredictable."

According to KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, "the hasty decision on the disbandment of the 14th army threatens to upset the fragile peace in the region." The newspaper stresses that "General Lebed is regarded as a guarantor of peace in the region not only by officers and men, by also by the majority of the civilian population of the area. However, he has become of late something like a thorn in the flesh for Tiraspol leaders, who are displeased with his interference in the political life. The latest interviews, given by General Lebed to mass media organs, were probably the last straw for Defence Minister Pavel Grachev. Lebed strongly criticised the actions taken by the Defence Ministry and even did not reject a possibility of his becoming a defence minister some day. This is in line with the results of public opinion polls among servicemen, which revealed his high rating. Anyway, after two years of comparative peace in the left bank of the Dniester, the situation is again tense there. The latest steps taken by the top military officials in the Dniester region could be very well compared with the behaviour of a bull in a china shop."

Proposal on Withdrawal of 14th Army Reported

LD0508163294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1412 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] At the next round of talks with Moldova on August 9-11, Russia intends to propose again to withdraw the 14th army from Moldovan territory within three years of the signing of a package of bilateral agreements, Interfax was told on Friday by Eduard Vorobyev. Vorobyev is the military negotiator of the Russian delegation at the talks with Kishinev [Chisinau] aimed at determining the legal status and schedule for the Russian troops withdrawal stationed temporarily in Moldova.

The package of agreements includes one main and five additional documents associated with the handling of the 14th army's military property, providing pensions for servicemen, and Moldova's participation in the construction of housing for them.

According to Vorobyev, at previous rounds the Moldovan side insisted on a pull-out before January 1, 1996. He did not rule out the fact that Kishinev may this time take a tougher stand due to the adoption of the new Moldovan constitution banning any foreign military presence in Moldova.

The Russian delegation believes that three years is a more realistic period since large amounts of ammunition and military property must be taken out of Moldova.

Vorobyev said there are also other differences in the drafts of the documents; for example, in the provisions concerning the construction of housing for the troops.

14th Army To Be Restructured, Not Disbanded

MM0808101594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 94 First Edition p 1

[Report by Vladimir Klimov: "Lebed's Wings Not Being Clipped"]

[Text] Rumors spread at supersonic speed. And, as always, they are picked up by MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS. The essence of the rumor is that a Defense Ministry commission is visiting the 14th Army in the Dniester Region in order to find compromising material to use against Army Commander Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed—currently on leave—and to remove him from his position.

It is not only the military who respect Gen. Lebed for his intelligence, toughness of character, and independent thinking. To most Russians he is a likeable man, and therefore any attempts to take reprisals against him will meet with a hostile reception. But have the attempts reported by MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS and subsequently picked up by a lot of the media actually happened?

"No, and nor could they have," was the reply to my question from Colonel Vladimir Nikanorov, deputy chief of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry Information and Press Directorate. "Judge for yourselves—the question of the appointment and removal of army commanders is decided not by the defense minister but by the president. And there is currently no question of disbanding the 14th Army."

I would repeat what has already been said—another round of the Russian-Moldavian [Moldovan] talks is

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scheduled for 9 August. It is at these talks that a draft agreement on the status, terms, and procedure for the 14th Army's withdrawal will be comprehensively worked out. The withdrawal could happen within three years from the signing of the relevant agreement.

What was the purpose of the working trip to the Dniester Region by Colonel General Eduard Vorobyev, deputy commander in chief of the Ground Forces? The fact is that the administrative structure of the troops deployed on Moldavian territory needs improving. One of the aspects of the overall problem of Armed Forces reform is being resolved. And not for the first month either.

Col. Gen. Vorobyev's group will study the matter on the ground and elaborate specific proposals to bring the 14th Army's existing administrative structure into line with the real number of troops subordinate to it. There is just a single division and certain units subordinate to the army in the region at the moment. And the army's administration (more than 200 men) corresponds to a large strategic formation of at least five full divisions.

That is the professional response to the rumors publicized by MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS. Gen. Lebed, who is currently in Moscow, could have quietly continued his leave had he not been besieged by approaches from journalists. I want to say yet again that the question of relieving a commander of his position should be addressed to the president alone.

Now we will make our own suggestions about the provenance of the rumors. The fact is that an army colonel in administration in the Dniester Region earns the same as a colonel general in Moscow. And the climate in Moldavia [Moldova] (even the political climate now) is favorable.

Naturally, none of the administrators wants to lose their privileges. But cuts in the administrative apparatus are planned.

What is the solution? This administrative colonel found himself rubbing shoulders with a MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS correspondent newly arrived from Moscow. He shared his concerns with him. Admittedly, they talked not about his redundancy, but about the removal of a man who is popular in Russia. Otherwise there would have been no sensation.

Moldova-Based Army Command To Be Scaled Down

LD0508131494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1136 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] The Russian Defense Ministry considers the command staff of its Moldova-based 14th Army is overnumbered.

According to military sources, there are more than 200 officers on the army's command staff. Under the existing tables of organization an army with that many officers on its command staff must have at least five divisions. However, Russia's 14th Army unites only one division and several attached units.

A Defense Ministry commission under the first deputy commander of the country's ground forces General Eduard Vorobiyev is being briefed on the problem in Tiraspol.

As a result, the 14th Army may have to considerably reduce its command staff and be reduced in rank.

Its commander General Lebed will either be reduced in rank, which is unlikely, or commissioned to command another army or a military district in Russia.

Shoygu, U.S. Envoy Discuss Emergency Relief

LD0508170094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1502 GMT 5 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow August 5—Russian Minister for Emergencies Sergey Shoygu met with United States Ambassador Thomas Pickering on Friday to discuss cooperation between the two countries in the area of disaster prevention and liquidation.

The Emergency Ministry press centre told ITAR-TASS that the talks touched on the practical aspects of cooperation within the framework of the June agreements on the founding of a Russian-American joint committee for cooperation in preventing industrial accidents and natural disasters and in liquidating their aftereffects. It was noted that the Russian Emergency Ministry and the American Defence Department, which also deals with emergency situations, already have a good base for cooperation.

At present, the NATO Partnership for Peace programme is sponsoring the establishment of direct ties between the Emergency Ministry's regional centres and U.S. National Guard and Emergency Planning Services. The U.S. organizations will include nine different states in the cooperation with Russia.

The two countries have agreed to form a coordinating council for cooperation in studying radiation effects with the goal of minimizing their harm to peoples' health and the environment. The council's first meeting has been scheduled for this September.

During Pickering's meeting with Shoygu, they also discussed preparations for international rescuers' exercises, in which the U.S. will take part. The exercises are to be held this September on the Astrakhan natural gas processing plant.

Ambassador Pickering expressed his country's gratitude for the Russian Emergency Ministry's readiness to send over a plane to the U.S. to help combat uncontrollable fires. Pickering noted that the fires had been beaten down somewhat, and that the U.S. firefighters were so

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far making do with their own means. He praised the Emergency Ministry's humanitarian actions in several countries, and expressed interest in cooperating with Russia in such relief efforts, especially in those countries which do not have national systems to foresee and prevent disasters.

Alleged Deal Linking Abkhazia, Haiti Justified

MK0508083094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 5 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Abarinov under the "Remark" rubric: "What Is the Lobby Meant for If Not for Negotiation? Once Again About a 'Cynical Deal'"]

[Text] The Russian Foreign Ministry has denied reports about "a secret conspiracy" between Moscow and Washington whereby the Russian representative at the UN Security Council threatened to block a resolution on Haiti unless the United States endorses Russia's peacekeeping mission in Georgia.

To all appearances, it is SEGODNYA that is the original source of the reports. We published information about Russian-American consultations on the subject back on 21 July, on the day when the Abkhazian resolution was submitted to the Security Council for a vote. Ten days later the Security Council approved an invasion of Haiti. By that time, the plot found its way to the pages of other newspapers, such as THE WASHINGTON POST of 26 July, where an author describes the agreement that has been reached as "a cynical deal." Of course, the existence of a conspiracy can and should be denied, although, strictly speaking, we do not see anything particularly cynical about the deal: What is the use of preliminary bilateral consultations if not political horse-trading? In particular, this was the meaning of Moscow's protests against NATO's ultimatum on Sarajevo: Russia objected not so much to air strikes, but rather to the fact that it had not been consulted, that is, it was deprived of the possibility to attach conditions to its "go-ahead."

Even then, in February, one of the conditions could have been the endorsement of a peacekeeping mission in Georgia. Our president told his U.S. counterpart about the need for such support as early as the January summit in Moscow. However, the Abkhazian resolution was passed just one week before the Haitian vote—precisely when the Americans badly needed a Security Council authorization for an invasion.

One may argue about the existence of Russian interests in Georgia or U.S. interests in Haiti, but the fact that the governments of both countries acted in accordance with their own vision of the interests is evident. Let us not overdramatize the question. Moralizing is out of place here.

'Swapping Haiti for Abkhazia' Termed 'Unfair Exchange'

MM0808090794 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 94 p 2

[Article by Aleksey Bausin under the "Hot Spots" rubric: "You Give Us Abkhazia and We'll Give you Haiti: Unfair Exchange"]

[Excerpts] Russia agreed to back the United States' actions in the Haitian crisis only in exchange for a UN Security Council resolution approving its peacemaking efforts in Abkhazia, U.S. Department of State representatives said. According to the U.S. diplomats, Russian officials did not directly link the Security Council's approval for Russia's actions in Abkhazia with Moscow's "go-ahead" for military action in Haiti, but in the course of numerous consultations they hinted that the Security Council should be consistent in its actions. For their part, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesmen claim that all the talk of a "conspiracy" within the Security Council is groundless. Incidentally, they also claim that France backed the Security Council resolution on Haiti only after it received the approval of its mission in Rwanda....

Whether the Security Council members haggled or not, the result was that the United States got what it wanted—a "green light" for a military invasion of Haiti and the resolution of the Haitian crisis itself. Which has, incidentally, been causing the Clinton administration more of a headache than North Korea's mythical nuclear arms or the Bosnian Serbs' uncompromising attitude. Bill CLinton is devoting so much attention to the internal conflict on the island mainly because for him the Haitian crisis is a question not only of foreign but also of domestic policy. [passage omitted]

In the last few years the U.S. Administration has tried out many different methods of putting pressure on the Haitian junta, including economic sanctions, to which Russia also subscribed in 1993 (although the Haitians hardly suffered because Moscow turned its back on them...). And now a military invasion is on the agenda. In principle nothing tricky awaits the U.S. Marines. The Haitian Army is more of a poorly armed gang than a force capable of putting up real resistance. But whereas the invasion itself does not present any problems, the Clinton administration's critics say that restoring democracy in Haiti will be extremely difficult. Aristide, whom they intend to return to the country atop U.S. bayonets, does not enjoy the unconditional support of the country's population. What is more, Haiti effectively has no democratic traditions. In a word, in the event of possible intervention, a typical situation will develop for the Americans where "pulling out will be twice as costly as going in."

But the potential intervention in Haiti, a kind of Caribbean-scale "Desert Storm," will be very different from all similar operations that the United States has ever

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carried out in the Western Hemisphere. The point being that, whereas the United States carried out the invasion of Grenada or Panama without worrying particularly about the reaction of the world community, now the White House is putting in plenty of effort to form a kind of harmonious chorus condemning the criminal Haitian regime. And now any action against the junta at all will be carried out under UN auspices.

If the U.S. Marines do nonetheless land on the island, a curious precedent will thus have been set. In principle the U.S.-Haitian confrontation is developing in accordance with the typical rules of Hollywood—the "good guys versus the baddies." However, whereas in the case of North Korea or Saddam Husayn the interests of a fairly large number of countries were under threat, in the case of Haiti it is pointless saying that the junta poses a threat to regional stability. Officially the aim of the invasion has been stated in simple terms—to restore the legally elected president to his post. However, there are probably about five countries in the world that also have the problem of unemployed presidents. Incidentally, Washington vigorously supported E. Shevardnadze in Georgia, carefully forgetting that this republic also had its Aristide—Zviad Gamsakhurdia....

It only remains to add that, in swapping Haiti for Abkhazia at the Security Council (if that was what happened), Russian diplomats have made an unfair exchange. Whereas in the case of Haiti Clinton is resolving his own domestic problems, Abkhazia does not so much constitute a domestic as a geopolitical problem for Russia.

Presidium Approves Draft on Use of Baykonur

LD0408142594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1146 GMT 4 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow, 4 Aug—At today's sitting of the presidium the Russian government approved a draft decree by the Russian Federation president on the main principles and conditions for using the Baykonur cosmodrome. This makes it possible to sign an agreement with Kazakhstan on leasing the cosmodrome in the next two months.

In accordance with the draft decree, the financing and establishment of 16,000 servicemen providing for the functioning of the Baykonur infrastructure and the town of Leninsk will be removed from the structure of the Defense Ministry and transferred to the Russian space agency. Incidentally their subordination to the military-space forces will be preserved. This issue was agreed with the Kazakhstan side earlier.

This provision of the draft presidential decree will enable the present strength of Russian servicemen at Baykonur—28,000 men—which is needed for the successful work of the cosmodrome, to be maintained. The sitting of the government presidium adopted a relevant decision of the Cabinet of Ministers, which instructs the interested ministries and departments to carry out further work towards implementing the draft presidential decree and also toward the agreement on Baykonur signed by the heads of state of Russia and Kazakhstan on 28 March this year.

After the closed part of the sitting of the government presidium on the Baykonur cosmodrome ended, Yuriy Koptev, general director of the Russian Space Agency, said in an interview to journalists that the possibility of building a new Russian cosmodrome in the country's eastern regions, near the town of Svobodnyy, was also discussed. A total of 4-4.5 trillion rubles at present prices will be needed to implement this project, and it would take 10-12 years. This issue will be finally decided by 1 November. There is also a plan to extend the plan for launching from the Plesetsk northern testing ground.

However, Yuriy Koptev stressed, in the very immediate future the use of Baykonur as a launching pad will be compulsory to maintain the effectiveness of the Russian complex of orbital space stations. Fourteen of 25 launches carried out by Russia this year were made from Baykonur, the general director of the Russian Space Agency reported.

Yuriy Koptev also said that, in accordance with the government decision, the issue of state support for 40 percent of the Russian space centers will be decided within the next three months. The remaining ones will be to a large extent directed toward self-financing and will be implementing their own commercial projects.

Today's sitting of the government presidium heard information from the chairman of the State Committee for Statistics on methods of statistical accounting in conditions of the market economy.

Kazakh President Arrives in St. Petersburg

LD0708124694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1307 GMT 7 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lev Rumyantsev]

[Text] St. Petersburg August 7 TASS—President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan arrived in St. Petersburg on Sunday. At the Pulkovo Airport he was welcomed by St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak.

Nazarbayev and his entourage are expected to see final competitions at the Goodwill Games, visit the Hermitage, and take part in the closing ceremony of the Goodwill Games. The Kazakh president is also planned to meet the St. Petersburg mayor to discuss issues of establishing close economic and cultural ties between Kazakhstan and St. Petersburg.

In the evening the Kazakh delegation leaves for Tallinn where Nazarbayev will have a meeting with Estonian President Lennart Meri.

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Advocates 'Eurasian Community'

LD0708135494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1152 GMT 7 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lev Rumyantsev]

[Text] St. Petersburg August 7—"Without rejecting the Commonwealth of Independent States, which continues to play the important role, the states which want to come closer together both economically and politically on the territory of the former USSR, should unite and form a Eurasian community," Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbaev, who came to St. Petersburg on his way to Tallinn, told ITAR-TASS. He thanked the Russian press for devoting much attention to his proposal on the creation of the Eurasian union.

"Each politician should be aware of the worsening economic situation in the former USSR republics, separated from each other by 15 borders. We should form a community, or you may call it a union, just to enable people to visit each other in the now independent states. We should mollify the processes taking place in our countries, we should treat people, proceeding from civic and human considerations," Nazarbaev said.

"Take, for instance, mixed marriages in the former USSR. How can we disregard this problem? In Kazakhstan mixed marriages account for 26 per cent in cities and 21 per cent in rural areas. Just imagine the number of such marriages in Russia and Ukraine. Time itself urges us to put on the agenda the problem of maximum rapprochement, of the integration of our economies and nations. I rely on Russia's support in this respect. The Kazakh nation has only stood to gain from friendship with the Russian nation, which has lasted for many centuries," the Kazakh president stressed.

Yeltsin-Kuchma Treaty Signing Expected 29-30 Sep

LD0508162594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 5 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin of Russia and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, during a telephone talk on Friday, agreed to sign a full-scale agreement between the two countries.

The press service of the Russian president says that there is an approximate date of the possible visit to Kiev of Boris Yeltsin. It is planned that the visit is to take place late in September-early in October. Meanwhile, Interfax was told by a spokesman for the Ukrainian President, Kiev is expecting Boris Yeltsin to arrive in Ukraine for an official visit on September 29-30.

IF Note: The need to replace the Russian-Ukrainian agreement of 1990 by a new one was said at the first few Yeltsin-Kravchuk summits early in 1992. The two countries' leaders repeatedly asked their foreign ministries to draft as early as possible the document to be signed at one of the future summits. Experts believe that an agreement will be drafted this time. Representatives of the foreign-political departments, according to Interfax, started coordinating the drafts of the document in mid-July after the telephone talk between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his Ukrainian counterpart Anatoliy Zlenko. Chairman of the Ukrainian parliament Oleksandr Moroz, during his recent visit to Moscow, said about the importance of the earliest signing of an agreement on friendship and cooperation.

In the telephone talk the two sides discussed the problems of cooperation of the two CIS states. Special attention was paid to the financial relations between Russia and Ukraine. Under discussion were also the conditions for activities of the customs services and problems associated with the borders.

IF Note: Addressing recently servicemen of the 43rd army of the strategic missile troops in the city of Pervomaisk (Nikolayev Region), Leonid Kuchma expressed hope for an early "thaw" in the relationships between Russia and Ukraine and for the settlement of all problems of bilateral relations. He said that his policy towards Russia and the CIS countries will differ dramatically from the "erroneous course" of the previous leadership which caused Ukraine's self-isolation from those states.

Ship With Arms For Angola Held Up in Ukraine

LD0808130194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1046 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow-Yalta August 8 TASS—The Russian steamboat "Module" has been detained by Ukrainian customs officials near Yevpatoriya for over five months with more than 59 tonnes of 5.45 calibre ammunition on board. The ammunition belongs to the Ukrainian "Ukrinmash" chamber of foreign commerce and investment, and was meant to be sold to Angola.

According to the captain of the ship, Leonid Valtsovskiy, the cargo was commissioned for Angola by Mikhail Kvarchelava, chairman of the Liberal-Christian Party before he was recently killed in the Crimea.

The "Module" captain has turned to the mass media to appeal to the Ukrainian president and the Russian ambassador to Ukraine to appoint representatives of the two states to investigate the operations of Ukrinmash and "Yug", the company which chartered the ship.

Captain Valtsovskiy reported in an interview with ITAR-TASS that his ship lies practically unguarded, and could easily be attacked by mafia gunmen.

According to Valtsovskiy, the ammunition cargo was loaded on board the ship in February of this year. However, as the ship readied to quit Yevpatoriya, the

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first deputy head of Ukrinmash sent a telegram forbidding "Module" to set off, since the Angolan side had not met its down payment. While the ship lies waiting for further instructions, neither Ukrinmash, the owner of the cargo, nor Yug, the charterer of the ship, is paying the 16 sailors any money.

Yeltsin Statement on Latvia Prompts 'New Crisis'

MM0508173094 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Maksim Yusin: "Boris Yeltsin Threatens Latvia, But Does Not Call Into Question the Troop Withdrawal Schedule"]

[Excerpts] A new crisis has erupted in Russian-Latvian relations, and threatens to negate the hopes for their normalization that sprang up after Moscow and Riga finally settled the question of the schedule for the withdrawal of Russian troops.

President Yeltsin has issued an unusually sharp statement, yet again accusing Latvia of violating the rights of the Russian-speaking population and threatening to take tough measures in response. The Russian president's displeasure was occasioned by the Latvian parliament's adoption 22 July of the law on citizenship which, the Kremlin believes, is oppressive to national minorities. According to IZVESTIYA's information, the text of the president's statement was prepared two weeks ago at the Foreign Ministry. Our interlocutors in Smolensk Square admitted that it is a mystery even to them why the document stayed on Yeltsin's desk for such a long time and was not signed until Thursday [4 August]. [passage omitted]

At the same time the Russian president did not once mention suspending the troop withdrawal, something that in recent months Moscow has repeatedly used to blackmail Riga and Tallinn. In all probability, the Kremlin has finally realized how the country's prestige is damaged by the ostentatious rejection of international commitments taken on earlier and by the maintenance of a military presence on the territory of sovereign states against their governments' will. "We do not link the troop withdrawal problem to the position of the Russian-speaking population in Latvia," the Foreign Ministry assured IZVESTIYA. The diplomats preferred not to discuss as yet the question of when and in what form sanctions could be imposed against Riga.

As was to be expected, Latvia reacted strongly to Yeltsin's demarche. The Foreign Ministry called the Russian president's statement unconstructive, adding that Yeltsin "is insufficiently aware of the position of the CSCE and the Council of Europe." The Latvians claim that the final version of the law on citizenship takes into account the recommendations of these two organizations, and that the document that evoked the Kremlin's wrath is fully in accordance with international legal norms.

Russia adheres to exactly the opposite opinion. Yeltsin has instructed his foreign policy department to "draw the attention...of Russia's leading partners to this instance of blatant disregard for international standards in the human rights sphere."

Demarcation of Border With Estonia Begins

LD0508132394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1316 GMT 5 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Luchnikov]

[Text] Pechorsky District (Pskov region) August 5 (TASS)—Work started on Friday to demarcate the Russian-Estonian border in the Pskov and Leningrad regions. The Russian president's decree on unilateral demarcation of the Russian-Estonian border was used as a pretext for this event. Work started in the village of Chaltsevo, Pskov region.

According to commission chief, Viktor Zvonkov, deputy head of the Pskov region administration, topographic work will be done along the entire length of the Russian-Estonian border (over 466 kilometers).

Broad forest cuttings will be made, and swampy places drained. It is planned to install about 1,000 reinforced concrete border poles. The land section of the Russian-Estonian border will be plotted by December 31, 1994.

The demarcation of the water border in lakes Pskovskoye and Chudskoye will be carried out next spring.

According to Zvonkov, "lack in Russia of an appropriate legal basis on border affairs permits transgressors to duck criminal responsibility. As a result, the Russian-Estonian border was too transparent over the past two years.

This situation made it possible to plunder Russia virtually with impunity and to smuggle arms and narcotics into and from Russia. The unilateral demarcation will put the border under the protection of law at long last.

Tajik Opposition Warned on Border Raids

LD0708202994 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2000 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] The Russian Foreign Ministry has again called upon leaders of the Tajik opposition to stop provocations against Russian border troops. Grigoriy Karasin, the Russian Foreign Ministry's official spokesman, said that if provocations continue, the border troops will take resolute measures using all the forces and means at their disposal.

Defense Ministry Assesses Armenia-Azerbaijan Talks

LD0508162894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1329 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow August 5 TASS—Reliable sources at the Russian Foreign Ministry are more inclined to describe

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the ongoing Moscow talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan to settle the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict as "a talk" and avoid bold forecasts concerning future results of the meeting.

Despite caution in appraisals, Baku and Yerevan pin serious hopes on the Moscow meeting brokered by Russia. In the opinion of numerous analysts, the meeting can become a serious chance to achieve a full-scale peace.

It will be remembered that the Azeri and Armenian defence ministers as well as the commander of the Nagorno-Karabakh armed forces signed an agreement on July 26 to extend the ceasefire in the conflict zone.

Under the document, the sides are to sign a major political agreement on a peaceful settlement of the protracted confrontation within this month.

Foreign Ministry Urges Russians To Leave Algeria

MM0508140094 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Gennadiy Charodeyev: "Russia Asks Its Citizens To Leave Algeria Immediately"]

[Excerpts] "The Russian Foreign Ministry draws the attention of the relevant departments and organizations to the need to accelerate the departure of those Russian specialists and members of their families who are still in Algeria," Grigoriy Karasin, director of the [Foreign Ministry] Information and Press Department, stated in an interview for IZVESTIYA.

In the period from September 1993 through July 1994, 56 people were killed and many more wounded at the hands of religious fanatics in Algeria. They included 12 citizens of Russia and other CIS republics. Here is the tragic list of casualties. [passage omitted]

The Russian Foreign Ministry representative in Moscow stated: As of today there are at least 500 citizens from CIS republics living and working in Algeria. They are all in danger. Our diplomats and their family members are receiving heightened protection. All trips within the country, or even going outside Embassy territory, are permitted only in exceptional cases.

Moscow, Baghdad Preparing 'Widescale' Cooperation

LD0408194894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1835 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow and Baghdad are actively preparing to resume widescale trade between them after the UN economic sanctions against Iraq are lifted. The press service of the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry offers this assessment of the Russian-Iraqi consultations held August 1-4 in Moscow made by Foreign Economic Relations Minister Oleg Davydov.

In the course of the consultations the parties determined the agenda for the upcoming sitting of a joint commission on trade-economic issues scheduled for mid-September.

In particular, the parties plan to discuss the most prospective projects for cooperation and to settle the problem of Iraq's debt to Russia (totaling about $7 billion), deputy Foreign Economic Relations Minister Vladimir Karastin told Interfax. He indicated that the countries had reached a preliminarily agreement on partial payment on the debt being made in the form of shipments of Iraqi oil.

Baghdad also intends to pay with oil for Russia's anticipated assistance in the construction of several industrial sites in Iraq; the Iraqi side has handed over a list of these sites to the Russian party for consideration.

The list presented to the Russian party includes a metallurgical plant to produce two million tonnes of steel annually, factories for the production of methanol with a capacity 80,000 tonnes a year, a caustic soda plant (25,000 tonnes), a isobutylene plant (60,000 tonnes), and others.

During the consultations the Iraqi side reconfirmed Baghdad's keen interest in continuing to develop cooperation with Russia. Specifically Baghdad is interested in shipments of Russian machines and technical equipment and the construction of power engineering and industrial sites with the assistance of Russian organizations and specialists.

Moscow To Do Business in Iraq Once Sanctions Lifted

LD0508172494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1010 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow, 5 Aug (BUSINESS-TASS)—Russia should be ready to return to the Iraqi market immediately after the international sanctions imposed on Baghdad have been lifted, the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations believes.

An Iraqi delegation has been meeting with representatives of the Russian Foreign Economic Ministry all this week. During the talks, the delegation transmitted Baghdad's invitation to participate in a series of investment projects, including oil prospecting and production spheres, the energy industry, building and metallurgical factory, and the methanol, caustic soda, and isobutane production fields.

It is already necessary to prepare the ground for Russia's return to the Iraqi market as soon as the UN lifts the sanctions from that country. Iraq has always been one of Russia's largest trade partners in the Arab world. Machines and equipment traditionally accounted for more than 60 percent of Russian export to that country, and the two sides actively cooperated in investment projects, BUSINESS-TASS was told on Friday by

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Vladimir Karastin, deputy foreign economic minister. He added that both state and private firms should participate in investment deals.

The question of the settlement of Iraq's debt to Russia, now around 7 billion U.S. dollars, will be discussed at the first session of the Russian-Iraqi Intergovernmental Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation. The first session is scheduled to be held in Moscow at the beginning of September. The participants also intend to discuss increasing the export of Russian machines and equipment to Iraq.

Official on Normalizing Israel-Syria Ties

LD0508165094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1408 GMT 5 Aug 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terkhov, and others]

[Text] The deputy chief of the Middle East and North Africa Department, Viktor Gogitidze believes that the normalization of Syrian-Israeli relations a will be the "key factor for breaking the deadlock of the Middle East crisis".

"Only when Damascus and Tel Aviv have concluded an agreement, it will be possible to discuss the outlook for the restoration of peace to the Middle East in general", Gogitidze said.

About the US Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of a number of countries of the Middle East including Syria and Israel, scheduled for Friday Gogitidze said that one of the aims would be to find a basis for further negotiations.

The official recalled that Syria insisted on Israel's compliance with Resolution 242 of the UN Security Council demanding the withdrawal of troops from the Golan heights, occupied in 1967. In response Tel Aviv demands that Damascus should resolve all problems of Israel's security and fully normalizing bilateral relations.

"Of late all contacts, including those with the participation of co-sponsors of the Middle East settlement—Russia and the United States—were conducted within the framework of the following formula: 'full withdrawal in exchange for full peace'".

Gogitidze recalled that there had been no breakthroughs in narrowing the sides' positions yet. "However, the very fact that the dialogue goes on is a reason enough to hope that each new round of talks takes us closer to the long-sought goal", Gogitidze said. "A peace settlement will be quite real, provided the sides display flexibility and goodwill", he added.

Gogitidze believes that "making the existing formula work is the real problem". "For a start the sides may formulate clear parameters of 'full withdrawal' and 'full peace'. Specific steps to implement them would be taken within the framework of Syrian-Israeli talks", Gogitidze said.

He believes the mission of Russian and American co-sponsors in that case should be to keep the sides on the track of the negotiating process by helping them with advice and mediation.

Gogitidze said that Moscow and Washington maintained constant contacts on the entire range of Middle East settlement issues. Those contacts were maintained at various levels - from experts to foreign ministers. "The most serious aspects of the Middle East conflict are often discussed by the Russian and US Presidents", Gogitidze said.

Senior Diplomat Views Mideast Peace Process

LD0708155794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1242 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] A senior Russian diplomat considers the normalization of the Syrian-Israeli relations "a key factor in undoing the Middle East knot."

"Only after Damascus and Tel Aviv reach understandings, it will be possible to speak about the establishment of peace in the Middle East as a whole", Interfax was told by Deputy Director of the Middle East and North Africa department, Viktor Gogitidze. He said that Syria insists on the compliance by Israel with Resolution 242 of the UN Security Council about the troops withdrawal from the Golan Heights occupied in 1967. In response Tel Aviv demands that Damascus solve all problems associated with the security of Israel as well as that the two countries normalize their relations.

Of late all contacts, including the participation of the co-sponsors of the Middle East settlement—Russia and the United States, were maintained within the framework of the formula "full withdrawal in exchange for full peace", said the diplomat.

He admitted that there was no "breakthrough" on the way to drawing closer the stands of the two sides. However, the very fact of the further dialogue, makes it possible to hope that with every round of talks we are approaching to the goal, said Gogitidze.

He believes that the task of the Russian and US co-sponsors is in keeping the two sides within the framework of the negotiating process and offer them advices and mediatory efforts.

Gogitidze said that Moscow and Washington developed regular contacts on the entire range of the problems associated with the Middle East settlement. The contacts are maintained at different levels, from experts to foreign ministers. The acutest problems of the Middle East conflict often become the subject of conversations between the Russian and US presidents, he said.

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Karasin Dismisses POST Report on Yemen Involvement

MM0508183094 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Aug 94 p 2

[ITAR-TASS report on interview with Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry Information and Press Department; date, place of interview not given: "The Air Is Full of 'Canards,' Not Aircraft"]

[Text] Moscow, 4 Aug—The article by WASHINGTON POST observers Rowland Evans and Robert Novak on Moscow's complicity in the participation of "Russian" aircraft in the civil war in Yemen can hardly be assessed as anything other than a malicious newspaper "canard," Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry Information and Press Department, stated in an ITAR-TASS interview.

"No company or joint enterprise would get involved, even in a personal capacity, in deals like the one the American journalists describe in their article," the Russian diplomat said, "especially since in this case we are talking about a region where open military operations were in progress. Obviously in this case we are, unfortunately, dealing with a specimen of the 'bad school' of Western propaganda, when an entire concept is built up on the basis of some dubious fact. These tactics have been well known in propaganda since the end of the last century: First a sensational 'big lie' appears, and then, when the effect has been achieved, the author starts to justify himself."

"I would react quite calmly to reports like the article in THE WASHINGTON POST," G. Karasin stressed. "In evaluating such articles the main thing is to check how far the report is true, and not to pay attention to its 'forceful' character: Forcefulness does not necessarily mean truth."

ROK 'Partly' Agrees To Repay Debt With Arms

LD0508151094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1440 GMT 5 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko]

[Text] Seoul August 5 TASS—The South Korean government will partly agree with Moscow proposals to repay some part of debt on credits, earlier given to the Soviet Union, in the form of deliveries of Russian armaments, YONHAP news agency reported with reference to sources in Seoul.

However, according to these sources, the government does not agree that Moscow will deliver armaments costing almost half of the debt which, they believe, amounts to 650 million U.S. dollars.

Spokesmen for the ministries of finance and defense of the Republic of Korea told ITAR-TASS that Seoul is really considering such a possibility.

So far the problem was that Russian systems of armaments are incompatible with Western types of arms which South Korea has in service. Besides, Seoul has to have consultations on this issue with its ally in the sphere of security—the United States.

The Russo-South Korean talks on the debt redemption are going on but officials in Seoul do not wish to reveal their content as both sides agreed not to make public details of their contacts.

However, it is known that the Finance Ministry in Seoul is considering the possibility of paying off part of the debt in the form of deliveries of aluminium, fish products, uranium ore from Russia and even by providing immovable property.

A YONHAP news agency correspondent in Moscow reported with reference to sources in the defense industry that the two sides had already reached an agreement in principle on handing over to South Korea some MiG-29 aircraft, C-300 missile interception complexes and other military items and technologies.

Company Cites 'Confidentiality' on ROK Arms Issue

LD0508152294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1441 GMT 5 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Tyssovskiy]

[Text] Moscow August 5 TASS—According to well-informed sources, the talks on compensation of part of Soviet Union's debt to South Korea by deliveries of Russian armaments are carried out by the Ministry of Foreign Economic Ties of the Russian Federation and the State Committee for Defense Industry.

As for the "Rosvooruzhenie" state company, a spokesman for its press service said that the "state company considering itself experienced and reliable partner of its clients in the sphere of military and technical cooperation, observes confidentiality and refrains from any comments on this issue".

Russian Involvement in ASEAN Forum Welcomed

MM0808110794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 94 First Edition p 6

[Report by Aleksey Solodov: "Orient Is a Subtle Business. And Very Profitable. Russian Federation and ASEAN—Moving Toward Each Other"]

[Text] The annual conference of the foreign ministers of ASEAN—uniting Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and the Philippines—has been held in Bangkok with the participation of Russia, as has the one-day ASEAN regional forum on security in the Asia-Pacific region, in which ASEAN countries and their partners in dialogue (the EU, Australia, the United States, Canada, New Zealand, South Korea, Japan, and

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China as well as Vietnam, Laos, and Papua New Guinea as observers) took part. The ASEAN members themselves assessed this dual forum as a "historic event."

Indeed, it is clear from the response of the press that for the first time the participants at the meeting were able to hear directly from the Russian foreign minister Russia's view of the development of the situation in the Asia-Pacific region in respect of many aspects—particularly, the safeguarding of security and stability in the region. For the first time the forum made the important decision to make itself a standing instrument of the peace process in the region.

A few years ago the ASEAN countries were still very suspicious of Russia and its allies in the region, viewing them as a communist threat. But the situation has changed as a result of the end of the Cold War era and the departure of U.S. troops from the Philippines. A kind of vacuum has emerged in Southeast Asia, and it has started to be filled by China, relying on the large Chinese diaspora. This has caused mounting concern in the ASEAN countries—a concern compounded by the fact that China has not renounced its claims to the oil-rich Spratly Archipelago. We would recall that Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Brunei have also staked claims to the archipelago.

Specialists believe that the recent forum has shown that the ASEAN countries want to restrain China by creating a standing forum and involving the United States, Russia, and Japan in it. On the other hand, it is also thought that involving China in the same forum will make it possible to control its actions. Incidentally, by creating an instrument for monitoring security in the Asia-Pacific region the ASEAN countries are also seeking to monitor the United States and Japan, which are also not averse to gaining the greatest trade and economic benefit for themselves in the region via, in particular, the World Trade Organization which is to replace the GATT. It was for this reason that the ASEAN meeting refused to include Australia and New Zealand in the ASEAN free-trade zone, since it is clear that this is something that the Western countries would immediately exploit.

Against this backdrop Russia's new role in the region is revealing. You get the feeling that for a number of objective reasons—the West's effective refusal to grant Russia full-fledged aid, Russia's desire to enter the Western-controlled international weapons and arms market, and the ASEAN countries' desire to exploit this position and obtain high-quality arms at considerably lower prices—both the ASEAN countries and Russia have an interest in cooperating. And it seems as though this cooperation could have a good future in store for it if Russian diplomats exploit the situation skillfully—after all, the Orient means profitable business. All the more so as a start has been made—a contract has been signed for the delivery of MiG-29 aircraft to Malaysia, and certain other countries (Thailand, Indonesia) would also not be averse to taking part in a similar deal.

But on the whole, in the opinion of observers, the Bangkok meeting demonstrated two interconnected points. First, the ASEAN countries' unity in defending the region's joint interests—above all, its economic interests—and, second, the fact that there continue to be notable differences between ASEAN and the developed Western countries over the latter's pursuit of a policy against Southeast Asia's "big six" which they see as discriminatory. To these two points should be added the position of the parties with an interest in the Spratly Archipelago—a position which could be described on the whole as restrained, since the sides have agreed to resolve issues through negotiations. But China, having stated its readiness to take part in bilateral and multilateral programs to exploit the resources of the Spratly Archipelago, has constantly stressed that it continues to regard the islands as an "inalienable part" of Chinese territory.

Developing Countries To Repay Credits With Goods

LD0508195594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1812 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Russia's Foreign Economic Relations Ministry, Economics Ministry, and Finance Ministry have developed a mechanism for the repaying of credits granted to developing countries by the former Soviet Union with goods.

The Foreign Economic Relations Ministry told Interfax that it intends to attract Russian importers, on a tender basis, to participate in a program to accept goods from insolvent debtors to settle their debt to Russia - amounting to $160 billion.

At present a tender committee has been created headed by the Deputy Foreign Economic Relations Minister Andrey Dogayev, on the committee are also the Vnesheconombank and Federal Service for Currency and Export control. This body will choose proposals from among the middlemen, those which will be able to offer an optimal timetable and funds to pay the ruble equivalent of the value of the imported goods, acting deputy head of the export-import department under the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry Aleksandr Kurkin explained in his interview with Interfax.

Though the provision on the tender committee has not been confirmed officially yet, on Friday it held a tender for participation in the program to repay debts with goods, earlier granted to India, Vietnam, and Indonesia.

Deputy Foreign Economic Relations Minister Andrey Dogayev reported to Interfax that in the course of this tender the ministry intends to distribute the rights to receive goods from India to the tune of $346.3 million, from Indonesia - $122.3 million, from Vietnam - $31.2 million.

Interfax has learned that the tenders to import goods in order to settle Turkey's and Pakistan's debts are now being worked out.

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Yeltsin Signs Laws on Ratification of Friendship Treaties

LD0508184394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1335 GMT 5 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow, 5 Aug—The press service of the Russian Federation president has reported that Boris Yeltsin signed the following federal laws today:

—on the ratification of the treaty on friendship and cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Hellenic Republic;

—on the ratification of the treaty on Friendly relations and cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Czech Republic; and

—on the ratification of the treaty on friendly relations and cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Slovak Republic.

The president also signed the federal law on the ratification of the treaty between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Estonia on legal aid and legal relations in civil, family, and criminal court cases.

All the above laws were adopted by the State Duma and endorsed by the Federation Council in July 1994.

Statistics Committee Releases Data on Foreign Credits

LD0508163394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1438 GMT 5 Aug 94

[By BUSINESS-TASS]

[Text] Moscow August 5 TASS—A total of 1.5 billion U.S. dollars worth of foreign credits were used by the Russian Federation in the first half of 1994 and the same sum was transferred in payment of its foreign debt, says a report of the Russian State Statistics Committee received by BUSINESS-TASS today. Last year the country used 6.4 billion dollars worth of foreign credits and paid 2.2 billion dollars.

The Russian foreign debt, including the one of the former Soviet Union, amounted to over 80 billion U.S. dollars in the beginning of this year. Foreign nations owe Russia as the successor of the former Soviet Union over 100 billion U.S. dollars.

This year Russia is expected to transfer 4.1 billion U.S. dollars to pay and service its foreign debt. The foreign drawings are expected to reach 5.7 billion U.S. dollars, including 2.8 billion dollars worth of credits to be received from foreign governments, banks and firms.

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Political Issues

Cabinet To Hold Meeting on Executive Discipline

LD0808080094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0730 GMT 8 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow August 8 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin has ordered the cabinet to convene urgently on Tuesday (instead of on Thursday as usual) to discuss executive discipline in the ministries and departments.

As is known, presidential decrees and government resolutions are often left unheeded in the echelons of power below the top. In a bid to tighten control over the executive, the prime minister wants to give it hot to the cabinet members, well informed sources told ITAR-TASS.

According to the same sources, other items on the agenda have yet to be specified.

Guard To Be Increased at Broadcasting Centers

LD0808104094 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 7 Aug 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Moscow communications enterprises working for television and radio broadcasting could be taken under stepped-up protection as of Monday. The Ekho Moskvy radio station has learned from a source close to the Moscow mayor's office that it is not ruled out that additional Interior Ministry forces could be involved. This measure will be in effect until 22 August. There is no information, however, about the reasons for the increased protection.

Increased Protection Denied

LD0808104494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Mikhail Yelizarov, deputy minister of communications, has denied a report that all Russian communications enterprises have been put under strengthened guard. On Saturday the radio station Ekho Moskvy reported the introduction of a special regime for guarding communications enterprises up until 22 August.

Oil, Gas Company Director Killed in Moscow

LD0508210494 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Anatoliy Kuzmin, director general of Megionneftegaz, the state joint-stock association for extracting oil and gas, has been killed. INTERFAX learned this at the Ministry of Fuel and Power Engineering. Kuzmin was shot dead in a company car near the entrance to the block of apartments in Moscow where he lived. Ten bullets were found in his body. His driver also died. Kuzmin had been heading Megionneftegaz since 1993. He was 40-years-old and had two children.

Team To Investigate MMM President

LD0808094194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0910 GMT 8 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yelena Gorelova]

[Text] Moscow, 8 Aug—The Moscow procuracy has set up a special operations team to investigate the case of Sergey Mavrodi, the president of the MMM joint-stock company. The team also includes representatives of the tax police.

Nikolay Medvedev, head of the press service of the Russian Federation Tax Police Department, told ITAR-TASS that the detention order against Sergey Mavrodi has been extended to 10 days, including the three days which the MMM president has already spent at the Petrovka 38 remand centre.

Several Hundred Million Rubles Found at MMM Office

LD0508171894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1604 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] In the presence of company representatives and a reporter for the Financial Information Agency, tax police officers opened, Friday afternoon, the steel door to the MMM's central office at Varshavskoye Shosse. According to verified reports, several hundred million rubles in some 10 sacks in six strongboxes were unaccounted for. Tax police officers expected to find several billion rubles. In addition, the tax police found 116 boxfuls of MMM stocks known as "tickets".

MMM spokesman Andrey Sharkov told the FIA reporter that he did not know whose money it was. Neither did he know who occupied the room with the six strongboxes.

Revenue collectors and a representative of Russia's Central Bank were summoned to the MMM's central office, press chief Aleksandr Borisov of the Moscow Tax Police Department said.

The tax police, according to Borisov, believe the total worth of MMM shares they have found stands at over 10 trillion rubles.

MMM Shareholders Plan Hunger Strikes, Pickets

LD0708180194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1705 GMT 7 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Manvelov]

[Text] Moscow, 7 Aug—About 3,000 people gathered at a meeting of MMM shareholders at the MMM exchange office at Varshavka 26 this evening, and agreed an action

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plan for the Union of MMM Shareholders to resist the authorities' actions against the MMM joint-stock company.

One of the "officials" declared that "the government has a plan for the physical removal of MMM joint-stock company president Sergey Mavrodi, whose life is in danger." A group of pickets has therefore been set up and will set off for the State Administration of Internal Affairs to demand that S. Mavrodi's guard be stepped up.

The shareholders' representatives, none too fastidious in their choice of language, voiced their dissatisfaction with Russian leaders and law enforcement bodies. Those present were particularly incensed by the government's refusal to pay compensation. A number of shareholders think "it's high time to take action," "we mustn't wait a minute longer."

The assembled shareholders decided to go to Government House on Monday morning and present Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin or one of his deputies with a petition demanding the release of the MMM president. Other actions planned include pickets by groups of 10 hunger strikers outside the White House, the Moscow State Administration for Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, the Tax Police Department, and other state institutions.

Not far from the MMM joint-stock company headquarters an unusual "public center" has sprung up for buying up joint-stock company shares and notes, which are bought and sold in batches of 100 and more. Shares of the Sistema Telemarket joint-stock company are selling well.

No matter how hard he tried, the ITAR-TASS correspondent could not spot among the crowds any of the many members of the Golubkov family, nor of other active television champions of MMM affairs.

Shareholders Picket Government Building

LD0808105594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0941 GMT 8 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow, 8 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—Shareholders of the MMM joint stock company are picketing the Russian Government building on Krasnopresnya Embankment in Moscow today. Their chant is "We will mobilize the whole of Russia."

About 200 pickets have been there since 0900 this morning. They are carrying placards saying "Hands off Mavrodi" and "Lawlessness will not succeed." Government representatives have been handed a petition in which the MMM shareholders demand the release of Sergey Mavrodi and a chance for MMM "to operate normally," so that shareholders can get their money back.

Pickets who spoke to ITAR-TASS blame the government for what has happened. They consider that "faith in the market economy is now being destroyed." They do not intend to give up the "struggle for their economic interests." The press came under fire too for, as the pickets put it, "victimizing" Sergey Mavrodi, whom they described as nothing other than "a benefactor who could compensate the people for the cash savings and pensions which the state has taken from them as a result of the reform."

There are fewer pickets at Petrovka 38, the Moscow police headquarters. About 20 bystanders gathered around several young people who have declared a hunger strike in solidarity with Mavrodi. There were nine hunger strikers originally, but five of them were detained by the police last night. Militia Colonel Aleksey Astakhov, head of the Moscow police department's directorate for the preservation of public order, told ITAR-TASS that "five pickets were detained for unhygienic behavior. Their documents will be checked. They may soon be released after persuasion."

Pro-MMM Demonstrations Held Outside Police HQ

LD0708203894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English GMT 2011 GMT 7 Aug 94

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Manvelov]

[Text] Moscow August 7 TASS—Over 300 people chanting "Freedom to MMM" and "Freedom to Sergey Mavrodiy" gathered in front of the Moscow police headquarters in downtown Moscow late on Sunday to voice their support for arrested MMM president Sergey Mavrodiy.

Head of the Union of MMM Shareholders Valentin Poluektov told ITAR-TASS that they have gathered there to "show their determination to meet MMM President Sergey Mavrodiy who is being held in the detention centre."

They have been staying in pickets for over an hour, but, according to Poluektov, have little chance to achieve their goal.

Additional police forces have been called in to ensure public order in the area.

A city interior department duty officer, when approached by ITAR-TASS, refused to comment on the situation, saying he had no time for an interview.

A Russian Interior Ministry officer on duty said that the situation around the Moscow police headquarters is under control. Picketers do not show excessive aggressiveness but criticise the authorities and the mass media which they say "represent the situation around MMM one-sidedly."

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Shareholders Reject Interference by Yeltsin

LD0508105794 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0730 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] The MMM shareholders committee intends to appear at the firm's central office today with an open note to Russian President Boris Yeltsin demanding that he does not interfere in the company's business. Valentin Poluektov, a spokesman for the coordinating council and cochairman of the shareholders committee noted that the statement says, in particular, that if Boris Yeltsin takes the same stand as the government then the shareholders committee intends to hold a nationwide referendum on confidence in the government.

Lipitskiy Forms New Social-Democratic Movement

LD0508151894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1331 GMT 5 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow August 5 TASS—The party of Rutskoy renamed at its latest congress into the Russian Social-Democratic People's Party no longer has a single leadership. While party chairman Aleksandr Rutskoy is forming a Derzhava National-Patriotic Movement, chairman of the party's board Vasiliy Lipitskiy has announced a constituent congress of a movement to "unite all social-democratic forces". The congress is expected to be held in fall.

Vasiliy Lipitskiy dissociated himself from his party boss at a news conference on Thursday night and gave to understand he wants to head the future Social-Democratic Movement created on his initiative.

Lipitskiy told ITAR-TASS he is skeptical about Rutskoy's attempts to create the Derzhava National-Patriotic Movement and does not think it is promising. In his words, the party does not participate in formation of this movement. Asked whether the former Russian vice-president may win over the majority of party members and electors, the board chairman said "there is no such problem".

The Social-Democratic Movement will be based on the Russian Social-Democratic Union that includes the Russian Social-Democratic People's Party, the Russian Social-Democratic Center, the Party of Labor, the "Green" Party and a number of other social-democratic parties and groups with inconsiderable membership. The Socialist Workers' Party has refused to join the movement.

Any interaction with the Russian Communist Party is out of the question till it is ruled by the forces which aim at restoration, said Lipitskiy.

In his opinion, society has grown tired of radical reforms and the situation is favorable for social-democratic ideas. It is quite possible to make an association to overcome the five percent barrier during the elections, he added.

Rutskoy Forecasts Election Win for Derzhava Movement

LD0508175994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1658 GMT 5 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Milov]

[Text] Ulyanovsk August 5 TASS—Ex-Russian vice-president Aleksandr Rutskoy aims to depose the current Russian leaders without using force.

In the opinion of Rutskoy, his new Derzhava Social-Patriotic Movement will gain no less than 52 per cent of parliament deputy mandates in the 1995 elections and be able to achieve early presidential elections.

The movement aims to "Revive the great nation and state within the borders of the former Soviet Union on the basis of free expression of peoples' will, strict order, universal equality in the eyes of the law and broad participation of people in state building," the ex-vice-president told supporters of the Derzhava Movement at the local philharmonic society building today.

Before his arrival in Ulyanovsk, Rutskoy visited Lipetsk, Saratov, Samara, Togliatti, Penza, Saransk and other towns. He said he had met supporters everywhere. The Derzhava Movement has been joined by 560,000 new members who confirmed their membership in writing.

Shakhray Explains View of Federalism

MM0508154594 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Aug 94 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Sergey Shakhray, vice premier of the Russian Federation Government, by Leonid Volodin under the "Politics" rubric; place and date not given: "Sergey Shakhray:...Bargaining Inappropriate Here"—first two paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] After the USSR's collapse it seemed to many that a chain reaction would tear through Russia. However, the process of disintegration has gone only as far as former autonomous entities being formally proclaimed independent republics, which have subsequently started the long and tedious process of bargaining with the federal authorities over the sharing out of rights and powers. Russia is still in this state of precarious equilibrium despite signing the Federation Treaty and a whole series of bilateral treaties. The problem of the federal system has simply not been resolved.

The other day the Commission To Prepare Treaties on the Demarcation of Areas of Responsibility and Powers Between the Federal Organs of State Power and the Organs of State Power of the Russian Federation's

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Components was set up by edict of the Russian Federation president. Its leader, the Russian Federation Government Vice Premier, Sergey Shakhray, answers our questions.

[Volodin] Sergey Mikhaylovich, at the present time you are perhaps one of the few people who possess practical experience of every aspect of the legal process from beginning to end in the conclusion of treaties between the federal authorities and the federation components' authorities. Do you think that the models which have already been developed—such as that of Tatarstan—guarantee a problem-free development of the treaty processes, or will they, on the contrary, become a model for their complication?

[Shakhray] I would suggest that your question should be split into parts. On the one hand there are, as you said, the legal process and the models which have been developed, but on the other hand there is still an imprecise understanding of the essence of the problem of demarcating areas of responsibility and powers.

As regards the process, it seems that a general idea of it has already developed.

The presence of joint areas of responsibility enshrined in the Russian Federation Constitution predetermines the necessity to use the treaty as a means of demarcating powers between the federal organs and the federation components' organs of state power. Direct reference is made in Article 11 of the Russian Federation Constitution to the demarcation of areas of responsibility and powers being carried out on the basis of the Constitution itself, the Federation Treaty, and other treaties on the demarcation of areas of responsibility and powers. But, apart from this, Article 78 envisages the possibility of transferring the implementation of a section of the powers of the federal organs of executive power to the federation components' organs of executive power and vice versa, which can also be the subject of a treaty or agreement.

Therefore the following scheme is proposed. It is first of all essential to adopt federal laws on the procedure for preparing and concluding treaties, on the principles for the demarcation of areas of responsibility and powers between the Russian Federation and its components and on the general principles for the organization of the federation components' representative and executive branches of power (incidentally, the third chapter of the Treaty on Social Accord mentions the necessity of these two last laws), and on the principles for local self-government. Only then should we begin to conclude treaties with specific federation components.

[Volodin] But what about Tatarstan?

[Shakhray] Tatarstan did not originally sign the Federation Treaty, but we did succeed in accordance with Article 11 of the Russian Federation Constitution in settling our relations with it on questions of the demarcation of areas of responsibility and powers thanks actually to the signing of an all-embracing bilateral treaty. That was, so to speak, an exception to the rule. Another exception is the Chechen Republic, but the problem of concluding a treaty with it is complicated by many, if you can say this, specific "attendant circumstances."

The treaty with Tatarstan is today often taken as a "model." I consider that models and standards are only good in combination with a precise individual approach to each federation component. All the more so as people often attempt to make treaties the subject of emotional political bargaining. We are not coming up with anything new here but are following the traditional principle of maintaining unity in plurality. Not unification but a flexible individual approach, but, as they say, with an absolutely consistent "general line."

I know that instead of concluding treaties there are proposals to adopt a series of federal laws on each area of joint responsibility in which the mechanisms for their demarcation would be described "for once and for all." But you can imagine how unwieldy they will be and how many additional agreements will be required in order to "fine-tune" these federal laws in accordance with each of the 89 federation components' specific circumstances.

[Volodin] The general schema is clear. But where then do the problems lie?

[Shakhray] The main problem lies in the fact that hitherto treaties have rather been regarded as part of the current political situation, and their exceptional importance for the creation of a genuinely federal state becomes secondary. So, the contents of Articles 71 and 72 of the Russian Federation Constitution are copied out in every text without reflection. There is no practical sense in making such a transcription.

It is widely known that the Russian Federation Constitution describes not powers but areas of responsibility and functions (for example, environmental protection, the fight against crime, and so on). In order that treaties are not empty declarations but a realistic mechanism for creating a federation, it is necessary to come to an agreement about who specifically answers for what.

"Within" each area of responsibility a precise demarcation should be carried out of the rights, duties, and responsibilities of the federal authorities and the federation components' authorities, and the right to resolve a particular set of questions and publish certain types of legislative acts.

It is also necessary to define clearly in the treaties which are being concluded the forms in which the federal organs' powers can be realized on the federation components' territory.

There is one more extremely important point to which I should draw your attention. The Constitution establishes

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that the Russian Federation's components have full state authority outside the limits of the Russian Federation's authority and the Russian Federation's powers with regard to the Federation's and components' joint areas of responsibility. In essence this is a formula of limited political sovereignty. This sovereignty is limited by the basic premises of the constitutional system, the Federation's powers, and federal laws which have been directly transferred to the Russian Federation Constitution. In this way, strict adherence to the Constitution's norms permits us to avoid both the extremes of the Federation components' uncontrolled legislation as well as the federal authorities' petty supervision of them.

It is in this very spirit that the work of the Commission To Prepare Treaties on the Demarcation of Powers Between the Federation and its Components should be conducted.

[Volodin] Sergey Mikhaylovich, people opposed to the federal authorities' concluding treaties with the Federation's components often make reference to the fact that in no country in the world does the whole conclude treaties with its parts.

[Shakhray] First, you are repeating a typical logical error. Under the Russian Federation Constitution, treaties are concluded between organs of power at the federal and regional level. There is, therefore, no question of Russia as a whole coming to an agreement on some matter with its parts, which are seemingly gaining their "sovereignty."

Second, a lack of knowledge of how federalism is practiced throughout the world does not mean that it does not actually exist. You only have to take Spain, which formally speaking is a unitary state.

Article 78 of the Spanish Constitution secures the right of all regions to form so-called autonomous regional communities. A special statute is produced for each of these communities—the equivalent of our oblast charters and republic constitutions. In accordance with the principles enshrined in the Spanish Constitution, these statutes note down in detail the separation of powers between the center and the provinces. But at the beginning of 1982 the so-called autonomies package was devised by which the state handed over powers on a whole range of questions to the autonomous communities. But in all cases the practical transfer of powers by the central to the regional authorities was the result of long processes of agreement, in which the central organs played a big part.

In my opinion, the history of the democratic reforms in Spain in the late 1970's and early 1980's is surprisingly similar to those processes which are affecting our federation today, and the Spanish experience of resolving conflicts between the center and the regions can serve perfectly well as a model for us.

[Volodin] Spain is all very well, but let us nevertheless return to our lands. You have set out a step-by-step treaty process with the federation components, but, you see, the necessary federal laws do not yet exist, while treaties are just the same being prepared with Bashkiria, Orenburg Oblast....

[Shakhray] I understand what you are trying to say. Unfortunately, life does not always follow a determined course. Situations exist in which a temporary breach of the process leads to fewer losses than delaying the resolution of the problem. Here, as they say, we are having to choose the lesser of two evils.

I hope that the formation of the Russian Federation Presidential Commission for the Preparation of Treaties will help to maintain the balance, which will as a result ensure the creation of genuine federalism in Russia.

Economic Issues

Chernomyrdin Interviewed on Economic Issues

LD0708200794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1740 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Interview with Prime Minister Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin to the Ostankino Television Company by unidentified interviewer; in Chernomyrdin's office; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Question] Viktor Stepanovich, thank you for agreeing to answer our questions. I would like to start with what is really something of a scandalous situation. The president issued a decree on indexing pensions by a factor of 1.15 while in July the Duma adopted a resolution to index them at 1.51. You will understand that people's sympathies do not lie with you or with the president.

[Chernomyrdin] The story is like this: The government submitted a bill to the State Duma stipulating indexation of pensions by a factor of 1.15. This rate is envisioned in the law on the budget which has been passed, that is, it is all balanced out in the budget for this year. We put forward 1.15. We did our calculations, distributed the budget funds through the articles of the budget. Then all at once the State Duma reconsidered the law on indexation of pensions, and they pass not 1.15 in the budget, but 1.51. In June the State Duma adopted the state budget. Then in July they adopt that new figure without changing the state budget. The Duma should have adopted something else, to indicate the sources from which these additional funds were to be taken because the State Duma also went through it article by article.

What is being done today is essentially just populism, playing on people's moods, showing once again who are the goodies and who the baddies. Well, yes, I'm a baddy all right! But I'm not afraid of it, I don't want to deceive people. Just how much can one deceive people? How much can one play on people's nerves? Who are we doing this to? If we decide this issue now and do it in August, we can actually settle this in some regions in August.

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Some of our regions do have these funds at their disposal, and we don't forbid them from making the increase, heaven forbid that we should. Some regions have been increasing payments for a long time by more than the index set by the government as a whole in the national economy—people who work well, where the situation is favorable in the regions, must be paid, and must get pensions first. But all this has to be calculated and one has to reckon where to get the funds from. This 1.51 index can be paid, and it can be done in August, but not everyone will get it, not everyone will even get the increase, and some pensioners will even be left without a pension at all, because there just are not the funds to pay them so much. This is just sheer deception. And I can't opt for such deception, and the president wouldn't either. The president has not vetoed the law, no! That is too difficult an issue, not a simple issue at all. That is why the president instructed the government to find by 15 August the possibility of indexing and increasing this index, not by 1.15, but by more.

And so now, together with the bank and with all those who are in the know, all those who have to deal with this, we have overhauled all these things again, and here is what we are now proposing. In August it will be 1.15, rising to 1.30 in September, and reaching 1.50 in October. All this will require an additional 2.4 trillion rubles not envisaged in the budget.

Now that we are adopting this gradual approach, we, the government, are going to look for necessary funds. What then is the main source? There are two sources. First, we have to work better in order to have more. Otherwise, we have to cut the expenditure part of this year's budget. That's all. One doesn't have to be particularly clever, as it were, to understand this.

[Question] Or else one can print more money.

[Chernomyrdin] Well, yes, but I don't want to say that because I am not in the habit of using such phrases. Print more, indeed! That would be just meaningless paper, which once again would hit pensioners harder than anyone else because its value will begin to be swept away. Pour out more money not secured by anything? Now that so much effort has gone into it, now that there has been so much hardship already—to start it all again? No, thank you.

[Question] All right, you are saying all this now, but you have just signed the government resolution on measures to conduct the harvesting campaign in 1994. I'll be frank with you. When I read it, it reminded me of the directives from the old days. So you do find funds to support agriculture and to make additional allocations.

[Chernomyrdin] Well, it does look similar. I can tell you straight away, the document in some respects is similar to the ones we used to have when it came to harvesting campaigns. You know what? I wouldn't like to say that things were that bad in the old days, or that those documents were the result of incompetence. I don't think people would fail to understand that additional measures, some measures, certain organizational measures, must be taken. I don't see anything wrong with that. That's why the document we have adopted envisages organizational measures we'll have to take. This concerns factories manufacturing agricultural equipment, supplies of this agricultural equipment, its maintenance and preparation. Some of our regions still have some time to do these things, though the southern regions are already close to completing the harvesting campaign. But we make decisions for the whole country. For those who had to act earlier, we made decisions earlier.

So here, above all, we have financial issues. I can spell that out if you want. To start with, 1 September is the time when one has to start repaying interest on credits we granted to our agro- industrial complex last year, that is in 1993, and this year. This totals no less than 8 trillion rubles. Today, given this situation, I reckon we in the government did the right thing in deciding, in conjunction with the management of the Central Bank, to postpone this. But that still leaves us with the credit itself, and it all has to be given back. But still, this is not the figure we had been talking about, so it's not too bad for farmers. Bad is not the word, it is support which they should feel straight away. That's the first question.

Second, where do we get the money? We did find an additional trillion roubles for August at the Central Bank, but this is credit.

[Question] What is the interest rate?

[Chernomyrdin] At the moment, the rate currently set for this period is 150 percent.

[Question] But can't we do the same for pensioners as we have for agriculture?

[Chernomyrdin] I think that if we get the harvest in on time, if we get everything we expected from this harvest, if sales go normally, then our pensioners can only win. And this is the very same additional source, in the regions, which can be used to make additional payments to pensions. I don't think we can start turning everything upside down like we did with the harvest, without so much as a by your leave. This will not make things easier for pensioners, even if they get the 1.51 increase. All these issues are linked.

[Question] Viktor Stepanovich, how does your recruiting of workers for the harvest period fit in with the market economy?

[Chernomyrdin] We do not envisage any battle and do not intend bringing in extra people, in particular. Our document offers the chance, makes it possible to bring in equipment, servicemen, and all the rest where they are required, but the regions themselves will decide this. And previous experience has shown that, in fact, as with the sowing and last year's harvest, hardly anyone brought in additional labor, because this also costs money, you have to pay for this also. But today, with this document,

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we are not forcing anyone, just creating the relevant conditions, so that if the need arises no one will have to wait or to sort things out. We are allowing it, and allowing them what they need for this through this document.

[Question] Viktor Stepanovich, with what it is doing here, the government appears to be robbing Peter to pay Paul. You are now looking for money for agriculture, but we have just returned from Penza and Karelia, where nonpayments are the order of the day, enterprises are at a standstill, directors are demanding indexation of working capital and credits.

[Chernomyrdin] Yes, there is that issue, but as for robbing Peter to pay Paul, what is needed for pensions and for the agricultural sector is all envisaged in the budget. But when we start trying to do what is not envisaged in the budget, then, I must again warn that I do have to take it from someone.

Then I have to cut some expenditures, or print money, set the printing press in operation, issue an order for the press to start printing these notes. So what is the best option? I reiterate, I am not in favor of not giving someone something he needs. What I am in favour of learning to live according to our means.

[Question] But what about enterprises standing idle, what about women weeping in front of you because you haven't paid wages since April?

[Chernomyrdin] Yes, quite right. It is not we who haven't paid, it's those enterprises at which they work. But you are right, the situation has now reached a stage when it's time to stop talking. That's why I signed a document yesterday, an order to set up a special operational commission. I did't call it an emergency commission, but in actual fact the commission will be headed by First deputy Prime Minister Soskovets, and all managers will be taking part. It is to summon local managers and make them answer for everything, first of all for what is laid down in our legislative documents. How they make their payments; where they keep their money; who is not paying and why they are not paying; why they are withholding wages for three months; why, while delaying payments, they are at the same time buying other enterprises, other equipment abroad, and more often than not of the kind not really necessary in the present-day conditions. Why?

[Question] And Mercedes cars too, by the way.

[Chernomyrdin] Yes, and Mercedes cars too, among other things. Maybe they'd better pay wages? I can state unambiguously once again: In Penza, where you have been, in Perm, in Nizhniy Novgorod, in Karelia, wages must be paid. And as for us allowing these arrears in payments, I believe we are going to break this vicious circle. Measures are to be taken now by the commission I have mentioned. It is to be attended by all managers, notably the managers of major companies, whom we are going to summon...

[Question—interrupting] Each one individually?

[Chernomyrdin] Yes, individually. The circle must be broken, a system must be put in operation here and now. Therefore we've had more than enough of all this talking in general terms. I have in my folder here a number of drafts we have now prepared. We are going to put forward several draft decrees and to ask the president to sign them. Above all, we are going to do a few things ourselves. But, I repeat, we are also going to make some people answer. Enough is enough. Just look at taxes, at the system of taxation. All this talk has become really unbearable. What sort of a situation have we put ourselves in with taxes? We have piled it all up, so we'll have to simplify things here as well. Of course it's unfortunate when one has to change taxes in the middle of the year, to change the rules while the game is on, as it were, but we do have to leave some things behind us. Take these payment; some people are just speculating on it now, they profit from the present situation.

Take, for instance, the (?ZIV) works in Penza. It is a respected works and not a simple case. Naturally, it manufactures some defense industry products, and some civilian ones as well. So take this factory. There is, of course, a paradox here. You have to go and take a look to understand what's happening just at this factory. It has 50,000 bicycles stockpiled. Five months, the director said. You and I heard him. Five months they've been standing in the open air. And he can't sell them. And why's that, what do you think? Why can't he sell them? Because nobody wants them. So drop the price. But he can't. There's a law, or regulation or resolution, they're swamped with them, all these obstacles. He can't sell them for less than they cost to make. So his product, the bicycles, are just standing there. The first quarter's worth, and now the second quarter's worth. The cost of making them and everything else has now changed, but he still can't sell them or drop the price. Someone stops him, or he has the tax inspectors on his back fining him and what have you. So, I sorted things out for him there, and now let's sort them out for everyone, let's have anyone who can do that doing it.

I'm not exonerating the government here for everyone's troubles and all the decisions that we've made which are in effect today. And not only as regards the tax system, not only the taxes. We can't let it go on like this any more, so we decided today—if there's a practical problem then we'll get rid of it. And anyone who doesn't understand will have it explained and made clear, or be removed from his post. Enough is enough.

[Question] You're always promising that you'll ask the people. But how are you going to ask them, because they're independent market operators?

[Chernomyrdin] That's a good question, of course. First of all, we have to ask those whom we have to and can ask. It doesn't matter to whom a particular enterprise belongs, whether it's under leasehold, or privatized, or something else, or state-owned. The important thing is

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that if there's a problem it has to be solved or removed. That's what's required of us now. This is why we've set up this commission, and the commission is going to be reporting on its performance every week both to the president and to the chairman of the government.

[Question] Thank you.

[Chernomyrdin] We'll sort it out!

Chernomyrdin on Plan To Increase Pensions

LD0508181694

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1625 GMT on 5 August carries the 10-minute, live "Details" program with program host Sergey Dorenko, who interviews Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin on the recent decision of the Russian parliament to increase all pensions by 51 percent beginning August 1994.

Before interviewing Chernomyrdin, Dorenko briefly outlines the background to the story. He reports: Pensions have to be adjusted to inflation every three months. On 12 July, the government submitted to the Duma a draft law on raising pensions by 15 percent, based on the current inflation rate of 5 percent per month. The State Duma decided to increase pensions by a factor of 1.51, and now the government has no idea where to get this money.

Chernomyrdin says: "The government introduced the bill on indexing pensions by a factor of 1.15 to the State Duma. This indexation has been provided for in the law on the state budget that we adopted. That is to say, this expenditure was included in this year's budget. Then, suddenly, the State Duma changes it to 1.51. What does this mean? We simply do not have this extra money at the moment."

Chernomyrdin says the parliament ought to have revised the state budget or indicated some other sources for this money. He adds: "This is how people become popular or unpopular. The result of this step is that the parliament is popular, and I—being obliged to fulfill their decision—am unpopular. However, I am not afraid of this."

Chernomyrdin says that if the pensions are paid in August according to the Duma instructions, some old-age pensioners might get nothing at all because there would not be enough money for everyone. He adds: "Let this be a matter of their conscience. However, I am not in the habit of, and I cannot tell lies. How much longer will we go on deceiving people? When will we learn to be truthful?"

Chernomyrdin announces a schedule to raise pensions gradually over three months beginning in August. He says: "In August, by a factor of 1.15, September by 1.3, and October by 1.51. [sentence as heard] Even spread like this, it will in fact require 2.5 trillion rubles of extra money that we have to allocate to the pension fund. In order to manage this, we will have to cut down on some parts of the federal budget."

Dorenko says that total budget expenditures would have to be cut by 0.3 percent to reach this target. He adds that this is the first time that the current administration has decided not to use inflation to boost its political prestige.

Military, Nuclear & Space Issues

Poor Visibility Cited as Cause of An-12 Crash

LD0508154794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 5 Aug 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Forty-seven people lost their lives as a result of the crash of an An-12 Russian military airliner in the region of the Boda airfield in the Transbaykal area.

[Correspondent Aron Bardo, speaking by telephone from the scene] It has just been possible to find out new details of the tragedy at the military airfield near the Boda railway station where the An-12 military cargo plane crashed.

A special investigative commission has rejected the original version that the engines of the transport plane failed. Members of the commission think that the plane, in poor visibility, clipped the slope of a hill with its wing.

The black box has been found among the plane's debris. A special laboratory plane has left Moscow to decode the data. It is expected here soon.

Most of those who lost their lives have now been identified. The duty officer of the Transbaykal regional center for emergency situations and the duty officer at the air force formation headquarters have refused to provide any information. However, according to unconfirmed reports from the air force headquarters, members of the army aviation command are among the dead.

Air Force Commander Leads Investigation

LD0608075194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0051 GMT 6 Aug 94

[(By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Fomin)]

[Excerpt] Chita, 6 Aug—After arriving in the Baykal region from Moscow last night, a group of officers from the staff of Russia's Air Force led by Air Commander in Chief Petr Deynekin today set about investigating the circumstances surrounding the crash of an AN-12 military transport plane. [passage omitted]

Air Force Denies Entire Command Killed

LD0608221894 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2130 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] A group of officers headed by Petr Deynekin, commander in chief of the Air Force, has arrived in

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Moscow from the Transbaykal region and has embarked on an investigation of the circumstances of the crash of a military transport aircraft. The AN-12 aircraft crashed on 5 August while landing near a military airfield in Chita Oblast.

Search groups have discovered parts of the crashed aircraft; the black box has also been recovered. The complete list of those killed—6 crew members and 41 passengers—is now known.

The headquarters of the Transbaykal Military District Air Force has denied reports in some mass media to the effect that the entire command of the district had been killed in the crash.

Khmelnov Appointed Pacific Fleet Commander

LD0508162394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1412 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Vice-Admiral Igor Khmelnov, 49, has been appointed commander of the Pacific Fleet. He is currently the fleet's acting commander. The Russian president signed the relevant decree on Thursday, Interfax was told by a spokesman for the Pacific Fleet.

Khmelnov was born in Ulan-Ude (Buryatia). In 1969 he graduated from the Makarov Pacific Higher Military School. He started his career in the Northern Fleet. In 1981 he graduated from the Kuznetsov naval academy. In May 1993 he was appointed first deputy commander of the Pacific Fleet.

He is married and has a son and a daughter. In 1989 Khmelnov was awarded the rank of Rear-Admiral and in 1993 of Vice-Admiral.

Igor Khmelnov was appointed acting commander of the Pacific Fleet after Russian President Boris Yeltsin dismissed former commander Georgiy Gurinov on May 16.

According to the chief of the information and press department of the Russian Defense Ministry, General Vladimir Kosarev, Gurinov was dismissed for serious mistakes in commanding the Fleet.

The decision to dismiss Gurinov was taken two days after a powerful explosion at the ammunitions warehouse of the Pacific Fleet in Novonezhin (about 70 km from Vladivostok).

Demoted Lebed Seen as Would-Be Power-Broker

MK0508092194 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 5 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Ilya Bulavinov: "General Lebed Dismissed. The 14th Army To Lose a Combat General"]

[Text] Eduard Vorobyev, deputy commander of the Russian Army, returned to Moscow from Tiraspol yesterday. During his trip he made public the defense minister's directive on reorganizing the command of the 14th Army. This could catapult to the political scene a leader of a new type—Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed is leaving the Dniester Region.

The leadership of the unrecognized Dniester Region Moldovan Republic, whom the army commander has called "thieves and drunkards," and the Defense Ministry chiefs, irritated by the behavior of the unruly and ambitious general, have been the two parties which have had the keenest interest in getting rid of Lebed.

Recently, Lebed's name has often lurked on the pages and screens of the Russian mass media, but Minister Grachev's patience was apparently exhausted by Aleksandr Lebed's interview for IZVESTIYA. The general said in the interview that he does "not rule out" his elevation to the post of defense minister. Lebed has not been forgiven for that. Concluding that the situation in the Dniester Region is no longer fraught with serious complications, Pavel Grachev has decided to reorganize the 14 Army command and to remove Lebed from it.

However, a high-ranking officer from the staff of the 14th Army did not agree in a conversation with your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent that the situation in the region is so stable that Lebed's presence is no longer required. The officer believes that Lebed's departure will change the existing balance of forces between Moldova and the Dniester Region, after which the worst-case scenario will be a possibility. The situation has been compounded by the fact that the future of the army military equipment, which the Dniester Region authorities have declared their property, has yet to be decided. Given that an overwhelming majority of 14th Army officers do not plan to leave the Dniester Region once the 14th Army is withdrawn—they have their homes and have put down roots there—the development of the situation is becoming unpredictable.

A military source in Tiraspol has said that "of course, the officers have a negative view on these events," but pointed out that "we are servicemen, and we will not protest orders." In conclusion, the serviceman said that "the army will suffer, but Russia stands to benefit" from Lebed's removal: "He will be the man whom the country and the people need."

Observers do not rule out that following the purely bureaucratic reorganization of the 14th Army command, after which there will be no place for the combat lieutenant general, Aleksandr Lebed could be asked to continue service in a remote military district. The commander himself also appears to foresee this turn of events. By some accounts, recently Aleksandr Lebed had a conversation with the Defense Ministry chiefs, after which he said that he would "not stay in the Army much longer."

If Lebed presently moves to Moscow, his figure will be fairly attractive for diverse political forces. The general has a democratic background—he defended the White House in August 1991; he has no connections with the

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ruling elites. After all, he could well lay claim to the role of a "strong man" who is capable of bringing order to the country.

Parameters of Kosmos-2286 Reported

LD0508181994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1801 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow August 5 TASS—An artificial Earth satellite Cosmos-2286 was launched by the Molniya rocket-booster from the Russian Plesetsk launching grounds today to be used in the interests of the Russian Defence Ministry.

The satellite was put into orbit with the following parameters:

—the period of rotation - 11 hours 48 minutes;
—the maximum distance from the Earth surface (in the apogee) - 39,400 kilometers;
—the minimum distance from the Earth surface (in the perigee) - 613 kilometers;
—the inclination of the orbit - 62.8 degrees.

The on-board equipment is functioning normally.

AES Staff May Take 'More Determined Action'

MM0808081794 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Andrey Ishchenko: "When People's Pockets Are Empty, They Keep Their Hands in Them. AES Workers Strike"]

[Text] The personnel of the Smolensk and Kola AES's [nuclear power stations] have no intention of stopping their protest action, your NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA correspondent was told by the Russian Trade Union of Nuclear Power and Industry Personnel Central Committee. What is more, the pickets have the backing of virtually all the country's AES's, mainly verbal support at the moment, but they are threatening to take resolute steps shortly. The Balakovo AES, for instance, has already refused to increase power output today as a sign of solidarity.

The demands made by disaffected nuclear power industry personnel have not changed in the past year—except that the money that the state owes for electricity received from the AES's is increasing with every month that passes. Personnel in the nuclear industry are organizing various protest actions with enviable regularity, but every time the government succeeds in easing tension in the industry by various ruses (partial payment of the debt, partial payment of the tax debt, and so on). No one seems to be setting about resolving the AES's problem in earnest. The Russian "Integrated Energy System" Joint-Stock Company still holds the monopoly on sales of electricity and dictates its terms to AES's, but is extremely unobliging about paying for the output it receives. Nor do the tax services forget to regularly fine the station for delaying state budget payments (in other words it is taxing money that the stations have earned but failed to receive).

So the appearance of a tent city outside the Smolensk AES is kind of a regular event—just like the repair of the reactors used to be in the past, for instance, while there was the money to do so. Today AES personnel and their wives are demanding that the Russian "Integrated Energy System" Joint-Stock Company pay debts of 148 billion rubles. A similar situation prevails at the Kola AES.

The government has once again pretended to be worried: Chernomyrdin is preparing to hold a government conference 9 August regarding the preparations for winter, which will also examine the protesters' demands; Yeltsin has ordered his analytical center to prepare a report on the situation in the sector—a reaction to a letter containing the demands made by the trade union of nuclear power generation personnel; the Ministry of the Atomic Industry will shortly hold a routine meeting of Russia's AES directors, devoting the main attention to resolving the conflict that has arisen and the financial position of the industry as a whole.

For the time being the protesters are being fed rumors—some money is already alleged to have been allocated to pay off the debts, it is "on the way," the government is promising to reschedule payment of the AES's taxes to the oblast budget and use the money released to pay the wages of AES personnel. But nuclear power industry personnel are not satisfied by this as they have already heard it several times before.

The committee coordinating the protest action has decided not to remove the tent city before 12 August. If the workers' demands are not met by then, more determined action is possible. Threats of strikes by AES's are nothing new, but you must remember that on the eve of the winter heating season the discontented AES's are accumulating more and more trump cards.

Nuclear Plant May Stop Work Due to Non-Payments

LD0608143094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1227 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] The Chepetsk plant in Udmurtia (west of the Ural Industrial Area), which produces casings for fuel used by nuclear power stations, is on the brink of stopping as a result of non-payments. Interfax learned this from the director general of the state-owned concern TVEL, Leonid Proskuryakov.

TVEL includes plants connected with nuclear-power engineering, and belongs to Russia's Atomic Energy Ministry.

According to Proskuryakov, nuclear power stations owe TVEL plants about 100 billion rubles. For their part,

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nuclear power stations cannot pay for the fuel supplies because electricity consumers owe them 954 billion rubles.

As Proskuryakov said, the Chepetsk plant will have to stop unless its debtors make settlements with it in the next few days. Another four nuclear-engineering plants are facing similar difficulties.

If the technological chain of nuclear fuel production gets disrupted because of non-payments, at least 5 or 6 months will be required to restore it. So Russia's nuclear power stations may find themselves with no fuel by the coming of winter.

Nuclear Plants 'Cannot Afford' Supply Components

LD0808095494 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0420 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Summary] The Invertor plant in Orenburg that makes uninterruptible power supply units for nuclear power stations is at a standstill because the nuclear power industry cannot afford its products. The consequences could be disastrous if nuclear power stations continue working with their existing obsolete units.

"Each nuclear power station has technological processes that depend on constant supervision and management and an electricity supply is needed for this management. If there is any interruption to electricity supplies I think we all know what Chernobyl was and what terrible consequences it led to. The uninterruptible power-supply units made at the Invertor factory in Orenburg facilitate reliable control of the technological processes at nuclear power stations. But each unit has its service life.

"At the Smolensk, Voronezh, Kalinin, Balakovo and Kola nuclear power stations the uninterruptible power supply units made in Orenburg are now worked out and need immediate replacement.

"The Invertor factory has made these essential units, but they are now standing idle in the factory yard. Nuclear power engineers say they do not have the money to pay the factory and take delivery of the units."

Regional Affairs

Dudayev Said To Appeal to Muscovites

MM0508121594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Aug 94 Weekend Edition p 2

[Report by Lyudmila Beldyugina: "Dzhokhar Dudayev Ready To Fly to Moscow"]

[Text] This report was confirmed to this ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA correspondent in restrained terms by some officials in the president's entourage and by talkative colleagues from CHECHEN-PRESS.

According to them, General Dudayev intends to meet in Moscow with the capital's public and with activists from political parties and movements in order "to ensure that Russians learn at firsthand about the real state of affairs in the central North Caucasus republic and can familiarize themselves with the position and views held by its leadership on the problem of resolving the Chechnya issue and the prospects for its relations with Russia." Dudayev would like to use personal meetings with Muscovites to break down "the negative impression that Russians have about Chechens, the mountain republic, and its current leadership"—an impression which they owe largely to the media.

But the first Chechen president's plans are not being widely publicized in the republic itself. Dudayev may possibly be trying thereby to insulate himself from attacks by his most fanatical supporters, who are constantly urging him to hardline confrontation with "imperial Russia." But he cannot fail to feel the impact of the most sober-minded people in his entourage, who recognize that confrontation with a mighty power cannot last long and that it is naive to hope that the small republic with its million-strong population will come out of any confrontation on top.

Observers reckon that Dudayev's announced intention is another attempt—and one that is not easy for the touchy mountain president to make—to persuade the Kremlin to negotiate with official Groznyy. In any event, such talks would be greeted with satisfaction not only in Groznyy.

A readiness to "begin talks with Moscow on an equal and constructive basis" was stated yesterday at an evening session of the Chechen parliament. Its deputies expressed aggrieved confusion about the fact that the Russian leadership supports in Chechnya "the leaders of formations which have no backing in the Veinakh [Chechen] community."

Groznyy is quiet, but the situation is becoming strained and the sides are not stinting on their statements.

Dudayev To Resign Only if Blamed for Conflict

LD0808121194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1120 GMT 8 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy August 8 TASS—According to Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, he will resign if the civil conflict in Chechnya is caused solely by his presence as head of state.

"If the Chechen problem consists just of me, I am ready to resign any minute", Dudayev told ITAR-TASS on Monday. "When the Russian leadership and the world community recognize the right of the Chechen people to freedom and independence, then I will quit the presidential chair that very day and swear on the Koran that I will never engage in politics again".

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Chechen Opposition Leader Avturkhanov Interviewed

MM0508143094 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Aug 94 p 2

[Report on interview with Umar Avturkhanov, chairman of the Provisional Council of Chechnya, by Valeriy Vyzhutovich in Znamenskoye, Chechnya; date not given: "Umar Avturkhanov Intends To Take Power With the Help of Russian Money"]

[Text] Groznyy—Umar Avturkhanov, chairman of the opposition Provisional Council, has just arrived illegally in Chechnya's Nadterechnyy Rayon from Moscow. Umar Avturkhanov gave an interview to IZVESTIYA in the settlement of Znamenskoye, the rayon center, where the 16-person Provisional Council has its headquarters today.

The head of the opposition, having conferred official powers on himself, announced that the Provisional Council has embarked on the formation of a government. Avturkhanov declined to name the future cabinet members, observing, however, that the composition of the government will be finally decided in a few days' time.

Avturkhanov showed IZVESTIYA's correspondent several decrees [dekretov] issued by him (they are handwritten and couched in revolutionary style)—on power, on the formation of a government of rebirth, on elections, on the restoration of the banking system... For instance, Decree No. 5—"On Local Organs of State Power for the Period of the Holding of Elections"—states:

"1. Activity by the prefects of rayons and cities of the Chechen Republic is deemed illegal, their having been appointed by a criminal regime.

"2. For the period of the holding of elections, full power locally is vested in the rayons' provisional councils."

Avturkhanov announced that the peaceful transfer of power from Dudayev to the Provisional Council will be carried out with the help of Russian money. First in Nadterechnyy Rayon, in support for which 2 billion rubles has already been allocated, and then everywhere. The Russian subsidies, Avturkhanov said, will reach the republic only via the Provisional Council. Thus, he summed up, the dyarchy will soon be at an end, since real power belongs to whoever is capable of ensuring the social protection of the population.

Avturkhanov categorically rejected the possibility of an alliance with Ruslan Labazanov, whom he called a criminal.

Asked whether Avturkhanov is afraid for his freedom in view of the existence of a warrant for his arrest, the opposition leader replied: Our general prosecutor has signed a similar warrant for Dudayev's arrest. The deposed president, in his opinion, will be arrested anywhere on Russian territory if he leaves Chechnya. There is an agreement to that effect, Avturkhanov stated, with Russian Acting General Prosecutor Aleksey Ilyushenko.

...For two days now Dudayev's plane has been in constant readiness for takeoff, but despite his declared intention to go to Moscow to meet with leaders of the Russian national-patriotic opposition, Dudayev has not yet made up his mind to carry out this plan.

Chechen Interim Council Expanding Influence

LD0608125594 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 6 Aug 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Umar Avturkhanov, the Chechen opposition leader, said today that the interim council is expanding its influence in the republic. He said that representative delegations from virtually all regions in the republic are coming to see him every day. According to Avturkhanov, the delegations are expressing concern at the situation which has developed in Chechnya and also asking for material assistance from the interim council.

A member of the staff of the Chechen interim council's press service, with whom an INTERFAX correspondent spoke, believes that although the situation in the republic is outwardly calm it is in fact the calm before the storm.

Avtorkhanov Forms Government in Opposition

LD0808121794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1046 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] A government in opposition to General Dzhokar Dudayev was formed in the village of Znamenskoye, the administration seat of the Nadterechnyy District.

Umar Avtorkhanov, chairman of the Chechen Provisional Council, told INTERFAX Monday that the government consists of 13 members and controls all parts of Chechnya outside the city of Groznyy.

Avtorkhanov said that the Dudayev regime, worried by the growing popularity of the Provisional Council, is resorting to various kinds of provocations. In particular, rumors were spread Sunday that Russian troops had entered the village of Ishcherskoye in the Naurskaya District bordering on the Nadterechnyy District. Some people have fled the area of Znamenskoye but were then persuaded to return home.

Avtorkhanov's Deputy Discusses Chechen Situation

MM0508162494 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 94 First Edition p 1

[Report by Georgiy Yakovlev incorporating telephone interview with Edu Kazlayev, deputy mayor of Chechnya's Nadterechnyy Rayon: "Violence Is Impermissible"]

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[Text] Chechnya has become the hottest trouble spot in Russia. The "Political Declaration" and "Decree on Power" adopted by the republic's Provisional Council provoked a response at the first congress of mountain dwellers in Nalchik. The participants called for ways to be found to stabilize the situation in Chechnya, especially since for various reasons the republic's delegation had spurned the congress organizers' invitation.

President Dzhokhar Dudayev considers the aforesaid documents to amount to an attempt at a coup d'etat which does not exclude the use of strong-arm methods. Is that so?

"If the president is isolated from the people, civil war is impossible." That was the opinion expressed to ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA's correspondent, in a telephone interview, by Edu Kazlayev, deputy mayor of the "rebel" Nadterechnyy Rayon, who is concerned with military matters and is an assistant to Provisional Council Chairman Umar Avturkhanov.

In October 1991, according to Edu Kazlayev, Nadterechnyy Rayon boycotted the presidential elections. And since that time its inhabitants have also considered themselves in opposition to the Dudayev regime.

The question arises: Why did the president, at the peak of his power, not suppress the opposition and arrest the rayon's activists?

"We were prepared for that, we armed the population and set up combat formations. The guards came, there were plenty of threats, but we stood firm," Edu Kazlayev says. In his opinion, Dudayev was also restrained from bloodshed by the fact that the neighboring rayons would have risen in defense of Nadterechnyy Rayon.

The rayon center—the capital Znamenskaya—has become the opposition center. The Provisional Council has two representatives from each rayon of Chechnya, they work in their places of residence, but when necessary they meet to formulate their actions in Znamenskaya.

[Yakovlev] Edu, where is the Provisional Council chairman now?

[Kazlayev] In Moscow, conducting talks. I can't say who with. But the main objective is to prevent the sending of Russian troops into Chechnya. According to our information, in Groznyy the president's personal aircraft is standing by.... [Kazlayev ends]

Our newspaper has already reported that the Provisional Council has adopted a decree on the formation of a government of national rebirth. Have any concrete steps been taken? Opposition supporters believe that it will be possible to form such a government after the fall of the Dudayev regime. Until then, Umar Avturkhanov is considered the head of government.

[Yakovlev] Edu, do you want to bring that date closer by means of violent measures of any kind?

[Kazlayev] No way! At our request, in all the rayons the elders are meeting with the population and instilling into them that there can be no alternative to the peaceful path. However, combat detachments have been set up in all our rayon's villages, they are armed with hardware [tekhnika] and firearms.... [Kazlayev ends]

Dudayev, according to Avturkhanov's assistant, has the support of highly paid mercenaries, plus his immediate entourage, who have an interest in the income from the sale of oil and other national assets.

Despite the peaceful assurances of the opposing sides, the situation in Chechnya is getting hotter.

Russia Provoking 'Militant Frenzy' in Chechnya

MM0508152094 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Aug 94 pp 1-2

[Report by Nikolay Gritchin: "Rebels in Chechnya Prefer To Operate Alone"]

[Text] The Kremlin's attempts to call the recalcitrant D. Dudayev to order and whip him into the Russian line are provoking a militant frenzy in the offices of the presidential palace in Groznyy.

For the local leadership, the least sign of an external threat means hope of national unity. Although, on the eve of the third anniversary of the "Chechen revolution," that hope is totally illusory. Much blood has been shed, and that means that the clans or "teyps" [teypy] are eager to avenge the deaths, and in various places in the republic an intransigent opposition to the president has sprung up. All the same, the "chance of unification" in the face of aggression from outside is seen here as the most realistic. It is no accident that people in Groznyy say: Were it not for Russia, Dzhokhar [Dudayev] would have to find another "aggressor" fast.

Even in the recent comparatively calm times, when people in the palace lived in expectation of a meeting between the presidents of Russia and Chechnya, the subject of a secret subversive campaign by the Russian special services against Chechnya and the aggressiveness of certain people in Yeltsin's entourage was not forgotten. Now it is the main topic. The CHECHENPRESS agency can hardly keep up with transmitting the statements of various organizations in response to the "campaign of lies and slander against the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria conducted by Russian Central Television at the bidding of Filatov and Kostikov according to a scenario prepared by the FCS [Federal Counterintelligence Service]." Indignation is expressed by the Foreign Ministry, the Confederation of Peoples of the Caucasus, the government press service, the Russian National Assembly [Russkiy Natsionalnyy Sobor], the Vaynakh Democratic Party....

In answer to my question about the reaction of the republic's authorities to the declaration of Provisional Council Chairman U. Avturkhanov, M. Mazakayev,

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Chechen Republic deputy minister of information, called his Provisional Council a "paper" council operating in Filatov's office.

"Passions are only seething on the Russian television screen," he stated. "In the republic, all is calm. Although we have taken additional security measures, in particular on the borders."

In my interviewee's opinion, Moscow's propaganda campaign against Groznyy was launched by the Russian authorities in response to the attempt by official Chechnya to establish contacts with Russian national-patriotic organizations with a view to reviving the alliance, in which Dudayev is assigned a far from secondary role. As for the opposition over which there is so much fuss, it has no significant influence at all on the republic's life, Mazakayev claims.

That is the official view. It is not, of course, shared by the opposition, which believes that the Dudayev regime is surviving solely by means of bayonets and that it is pursuing a policy of impoverishing the main bulk of the population, so that its days are numbered. R. Labazanov, in the past a representive of Dudayev's immediate entourage but now head of the armed opposition, claims that the present ruling regime in Groznyy has appropriated more than $20 million in the past year alone through the sale of petroleum products. In the rebel gunman's opinion, even half that sum would be enough to pay the pensions and wages that people have not received for many months in the republic. R. Labazanov believes the opposition's main problem is its disunity and the desire of certain opposition leaders to monitor the situation in Chechnya from apartments in expensive Moscow hotels.

Like all Dudayev's opponents, he calls on the republic's constructive forces to unite and act. But it seems that his appeal is, for the time being, still a voice crying in the wilderness. It is no accident that Groznyy calls the oppositionists loners and amateurs. Some of them are chiefly guided in their actions by the interests of their own teyp (clan).

Russian Opposition Leader Confirms Talks With Dudayev

LD0508175094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1604 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Leader of the opposition Russian National Council, Aleksandr Sterligov, confirmed on Friday, in an interview with Interfax, that at present he is involved in negotiations with Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev on the issue of the latter's possible arrival in Moscow. Sterligov said that the arrival date may be set within days.

"Two days ago I informed Groznyy about the fact that we are prepared to welcome the president, since his arrival would make it possible to dispel all insinuations about the situation in Chechnya spread by the Russian authorities," said Sterligov.

Sterligov, who visited the Chechen capital a week ago, reports not noticing any signs of tensions there. He expressed fears that Russia's current policy in the North Caucasus may lead to developments similar to those in the former Yugoslavia: to another conflict between Christians and Moslems.

Sterligov criticized Moscow's support of the Chechen opposition. There is opposition in Russia and it may also gather in one of Russia's regions and declare the president overthrown, as was the case in Chechnya, he said.

The former KGB general warned of the danger of clearing the way for a wave of terrorism against Muscovites if the Chechen situation aggravates further.

Chechen Diaspora Appeals to Dudayev To Leave

LD0708160194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1242 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] General Dzokhar Dudayev and his entourage should understand their fiasco and leave the political scene of the Chechen Republic, said in Moscow on Saturday night over 500 representatives of the Chechen diaspora in the Russian capital. The Chechen diaspora in Moscow constitutes at least 30,000 people.

The document they adopted says that representatives of the Chechen diaspora in Moscow "support the constructive steps by the Provisional Council of the Chechen Republic, as well as the statement by the former speaker of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov about the establishment of a civil peace in Chechnya".

Representatives of the Moscow diaspora appealed to the president, the government and the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation "to prevent the use of force in the republic and, using only the political methods, to achieve a gradual solution of all Chechen problems."

The document says that rendering the material, moral and legal support to the Provisional Council, Russia "gives its backing to the multinational people who came to understand the falsity and the lack of political prospect in the policies pursued by Dzokhar Dudayev and his team".

Aslakhanov: Forced Ouster of Dudayev 'Inevitable'

LD0508174994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1604 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev will not leave the political scene voluntarily, even if the entire Chechen people beg him to do so on their knees, said Professor of the Russian Interior Ministry' Academy, former chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet committee on law and order and the struggle with crime, General Aslanbek Aslakhanov.

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Speaking at a press conference in Moscow today, Aslakhanov, an ethnic Chechen, stressed that even if Dudayev wanted to leave his post his entourage would not let him do so, since nobody wants to bear the responsibility for crimes.

Aslakhanov, who had recently visited Chechnya, said that the forced ouster of Dudayev is inevitable. At the same time Aslakhanov said he was in favor of resolving the problems by peaceful means and in favor of any possible compromises.

Aslakhanov told an Interfax correspondent that he divided the anti-Dudayev groups into three categories. The first one, in his words, consists of those who were in power before Dudayev came and dismissed them. The second group was those who came to power with Dudayev but for different reasons had parted ways with the leader. The third group, Aslakhanov said, are those who have never been in power, do not seek it, but who want their people to live normally. Aslakhanov said he sympathizes with the third group and with everybody who stands against the current dictatorship.

Aslakhanov himself denied his possible participation in the political life of Chechnya both now and in the future. He said that back in 1991 he had made his decision when refusing to run for president in Chechnya against Dudayev. He explained that such so-called elections were actually a farce.

Chechen Leader Condemns Interim Council's Policy

LD0608161594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1440 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] "The policy of the opposition Temporary council formed in Moscow is aimed at betrayal of our people and the best way out is to present a statement on self-disbandment of this entity," Yusup Soslambekov, former speaker of the Chechen parliament and now president of the Fund for Revival of the Caucasian Peoples, declared to Interfax Saturday.

He grounded his opinion by his impression from the meeting with the opposition's activists held Friday evening in Moscow. In his words, everybody who wished "could receive arms provided they go to Chechnya and launch hostilities against Dzhokhar Dudayev."

Soslambekov said that one could see former speaker of the RF Supreme Soviet Ruslan Khasbulatov, a Chechen by nationality, among the participants of the opposition's meeting.

Meanwhile, sources in Groznyy told Interfax that a fire engagement was registered on Friday night on the Ishcherskiy bridge (Chechnya's Nadterechny region, where the leadership of the anti-Dudayev opposition is stationed). No details of this incident are reported.

Minister Says 'Cold War' Launched Against Chechnya

LD0608165194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1440 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] The Russian leadership has launched a real "cold war" against Chechnya, the republic's Interior Minister Ayub Satuyev declared in his interview with the Groznyy radio Saturday.

"The unprecedented psychological and military pressure which Moscow exerts against Chechnya can provoke a burst in the North Caucuses as a whole," Satuyev believes.

The next session of Chechnya's Security Council is to be held on Saturday in Groznyy.

The agency Chechen-press has learned that the major issue to be considered by this sitting concerns the situation related to "a sharp activization of the Russian special services' operations aimed at undermining the grounds of Chechnya's state independence."

The secretariat of Chechnya's Security Council has worked out a series of measures to defend the republic's constitutional system, the agency reports.

Chechen Territory 'Black Hole' for Criminals

LD0608171294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1440 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] The Chechen authorities act in accordance with the principle "no giving up from the Don river" with respect to the criminal who have committed crimes on the Russian territory and are hiding from the Russian justice, head of the Criminal Investigation Department under the Russian Interior Ministry Vassiliy Fedoshchenko declared in his interview with Interfax. In his words, none of the 60 requests which were forwarded to Groznyy to extradite the suspected and the criminals, has been fulfilled.

"The Chechen territory has turned into a kind of "a black hole" where criminals persecuted by the Russian law enforcement bodies disappear."

"Russian investigation officers who go to Chechnya confront an active opposition there, including an armed one. The local authorities view their presence as an interference in Chechnya's inner affairs. As a result, there are no contacts between Russia's and Chechnya's law enforcement bodies," he noted.

Fedoshchenko recognized that the Russian Interior Ministry has no reliable information stating how many criminals have found an asylum in Chechnya. "It is practically impossible to search them because the Chechen party does not carry out any searching operations and presents no official responses to the requests," he said.

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As Fedoshchenko says, the Russian Interior Ministry is unable to influence the situation. "We should look for a decision at the political level," he continued.

As many as 57,000 criminals, including those who have committed especially serious crimes, are in search in the Russian Federation. The RF [Russian Federation] law enforcement bodies have found 29,517 criminals over the first half of this year including 179 people accused of murder or inflicting bodily injuries. Over the same period they have detained 871 rapers, 4212 gangsters, and 24413 robbers.

Chechen Situation Provokes 'Tension' in Stavropol

MM0508154694 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Aug 94 First Edition p 1

[Report by correspondent Lyudmila Beldyugina under the rubric "On Events in Chechnya": "Cossack Patrols on the Border"]

[Text] Stavropol—Tension prevails in the territories bordering on Chechnya. Hundreds of Stavropol Cossacks are patrolling the borders with Chechnya and the roads leading from the south, inspecting vehicles and checking documents carefully. Quick reaction groups are being formed in all the Cossack structures. Incidentally, the Cossacks' cordons are also actively helping with the preventive measures to eliminate the outbreak of cholera in Dagestan.

A statement by leaders of Stavropol Kray's ethnic and religious communities has just been published. It says: "We demand from the Russian president resolute and urgent measures to clarify the status of the Chechen Republic in our country. If Mr. Dudayev wants to be president of a state outside Russia, then, naturally, interstate relations should be settled, as is done throughout the civilized world, and that will make it possible to establish a state border, with all the ensuing consequences. If the Chechen people want to live within Russia, appropriate measures must be adopted to stop the terrorism and gangsterism...."

On 5 August ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA's North Caucasus office received a statement from the Stavropol Kray Prosecutor's Office. The statement says that local prosecution organs will resolutely adopt all measures stipulated by law to protect the population from gangsterism and organized crime.

Stavropol 'Terror' Deemed Provocation

LD0508180194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1609 GMT 5 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Styazhkin]

[Text] Stavropol August 5 TASS—A report of the CHECHENPRESS News agency claiming Stavropol "terror against local Chechens" is a regular provocation of the Dudayev regime, representatives of the Stavropol law-enforcement bodies told ITAR-TASS here today.

Last week Chechen official representatives claimed that the four cases of hostage taking in Mineralnye Vody "were instigated by the Russian secret services with the help of ethnic Chechen inmates of Russian prisons".

As for the "terror", there have been rumors that an ethnic Chechen youngster was killed on ethnic grounds in the Stavropol Kurskaya region adjoining the Chechen Republic. Stavropol representatives went to the area to investigate the incident but found no corpse of the youngster. They were told that the corpse was taken by the youngster's relatives to the Chechen Republic. The Stavropol authorities demand a forensic medical examination of the corpse and an investigation of the alleged incident, but the Chechen side has not answered to this demand.

Commenting on "concentration of Cossack troops on the Chechen border" claimed by the Chechen Republic, the Stavropol law- enforcement bodies said that a number of Cossack patrol units has been formed in Stavropol regions bordering the Chechen Republic. The Cossacks are controlling vehicles that enter the Stavropol territory from the Chechen Republic with the help of the police in order to prevent penetration of criminal groups and illicit arms trafficking.

The Cossacks are also controlling commuter buses going to Mineralnye Vody because their passengers are frightened with the recent attacks.

Cossacks from the Stavropol Maryinskaya settlement have joined the patrols after their fellow-countrywoman Oksana Bulanova, 18, was killed by bandits in the recent attack at the Pyatigorsk-Sovetskiy bus.

Khasbulatov Warns of 'Bloody Outcome' in Chechnya

LD0608170394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1009 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow, 6 August—Ruslan Khasbulatov, former speaker of the Russian State Duma, warns against a bloody outcome in Chechnya.

His statement published in the SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper, says, among other things: "One should not prepare for war in North Caucasus, but one is necessarily apprehensive when one learns about the numbers of forces concentrated along the border of the Chechen Republic. Who is one going to fight against with these 'superior forces' if the population of the Chechen Republic itself sees only two or three political figures in Groznyy as its real enemies and, with all the means at its disposal, tries to restore the most solid economic, cultural, and human links with Russia? The people of the Chechen Republic are one of the peoples of Russia, and they see their future prosperity only as a member of a fraternal family of Russia's peoples. But

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they will not tolerate an armed occupation of their land just as the people of any other republic or the population of a kray or oblast will not tolerate it.

"If there are indeed plans to invade and if preparations for an occupation are under way, I would like to raise my voice in protest and appeal to the Russian, Caucasian, and international public: Do not allow a 'second Karabakh' or 'new Balkans' in the North Caucasus while this is still possible.

"Taking all of the complexity of the situation into account, there is still every possibility of resolving the Chechen crisis by peaceful political means, and I will do all I can to achieve this. I appeal to all the parties involved in the conflict, first and foremost to Russian federal authorities and parliamentarians, to assist me in resolving the acute problems of the Chechen crisis. When the lives of many, many people are in danger, when there is a threat of a new military conflict, all prejudices and preconceptions should be moved to the background. If someone cannot master himself, he should at least not hamper the noble case of preventing a bloody confrontation....

"At long last, let us give the people the right to determine their fate by ensuring free elections under the control of and with the help of the Central Electoral Commission and international observers. The elections should be held no later than two months from the date the Chechen people establish control over their territory after the fall of the Dudayev regime. I know this position is finding full support in the Chechen Republic."

Commander Says Tank Regiment Loyal to Dudayev

LD0608171494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1440 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] On Saturday the chief of staff of the Shalinskiy tank regiment Captain Saili Borschigov told an Interfax correspondent in Groznyy that his men remembered their oath of allegiance and remained loyal to their president and their people. Borschigov was surprised to hear that the regiment or some of its elements had joined the opposition.

He saw what was described as the opposition only on the silver screen, he said.

In Borschigov's view, political leaders should not speak the language of the military. He hoped the Russian and Chechen political leaders would find a common language.

Chechnya Reportedly Holding Military Exercises

LD0608200294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1916 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow August 6 TASS—The Chechen republic is holding military exercises to train border fighting, the independent TV news program reports. The population will be offered to free the terrain under exercises. [sentence as received] Some observers think that these actions aim to impress the opposition.

The armed opposition claims that Dudayev's position is weakening day by day, and everyone seems to be preparing for decisive actions, said NTV. Head of the opposition provisional council Avturkhanov has left the Znamenskoye settlement by helicopter to return to the Chechen Republic in a few days.

The Russian-speaking population is leaving the Chechen Republic, said NTV.

Paramilitary Groups Urged To Lay Down Arms

LD0708151894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1242 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] The Dudayev administration suggested that the illegal paramilitary groupings in Chechnya lay down arms. Interfax correspondents say Groznyy pledged to act tough if the paramilitaries refused to cooperate.

An official statemen' spread in Groznyy says those who distribute anti-government leaflets will spend up to 10 years in jail.

One IF [INTERFAX] correspondent says that in the small hours of August 6 a man who spread anti-government leaflets was detained in Groznyy.

The Chechen Security Council expects attacks on Chechnya's Russian-speaking residents. The Council met Saturday evening in Groznyy. It claimed the Russian special services had masterminded "provocational actions" whose results "would give a pretext for the introduction of a Russian army contingent into Chechnya."

In Saturday's appearance on Chechen TV, a member of the Chechen Security Council Prosecutor General Usman Imayev urged ethnic Chechens to "protect their Russian neighbors."

Weapons Confiscated

LD0708225994 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Video report by A. Goncharov]

[Text] Threatening tough measures, the Chechen Government called upon fighters from illegal armed groups to hand over their weapons today. Disseminating antigovernment leaflets will now be punishable by 10 years' imprisonment. The head of the Chechen parliament has summoned the people to join ranks in the face of the military threat and to avoid any political split in society.

According to the Chechen opposition provisional council, four fighters from the government forces were killed last night in a clash at the bridge over the River

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Terek. The authorities in Groznyy have admitted that three agents from their security services died in Nadterechnyy Rayon.

Chechen leaders keep making fresh accusations against Moscow. Yesterday the Chechnya Security Council warned of provocations against the Russian-speaking population allegedly being prepared by the Russian special services. Procurator General Isman Imayev has even called upon the Chechen population to protect Russians living alongside them.

To judge from the reports from Chechnya, the relative peace in the republic is being maintained only because of the approximate balance of forces between the Dudayev regime and the opposition, which is split into rival groups. Only the exercise of force from without can now shatter this unstable equilibrium. Then Dudayev will be able to count on all Chechens uniting together. The opposition leaders see this threat and are issuing persistent warnings against ill-considered use of force. The Chechen provisional council warned Dzhokhar Dudayev today that any encroachment on his part against Nadterechnyy Rayon would be resolutely nipped in the bud.

Three Security Officers Killed in Chechnya

LD0708152694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1242 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] In a Saturday evening appearance on the Chechen television, Chechen security chief Sultan Geliskhanov said three security officers were killed Saturday in Chechnya's Nadterechniy District where the opposition Provisional Council is headquartered. Geliskhanov gave out no details.

Instead, he called on the Chechens to join forces in the face of a military threat. He rejected "politics under the Russian colors" as unacceptable in Chechnya. The Chechens would take care of their own affairs on their own, he said.

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International Affairs

Ukrainian-Russian Border Talks Conclude

LD0508130394 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0958 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] A scheduled conference of representatives from 10 border oblasts of Ukraine and Russia ended on 4 August. It was attended by oblast council chairmen, government representatives, and foreign ministry officials from both countries. The regions finalized a draft agreement on economic, scientific, technical, and cultural cooperation drawn up at the previous meeting on 24 May in Donetsk. The document outlines basic guidelines for the restoration of ties between the border oblasts, including establishment of joint Ukrainian-Russian ventures and joint banks.

More than 10 Russian banks operate in Ukraine today, while there are no Ukrainian banks in Russia. A permanent executive committee, the Economic Union, has been set up in Belgorod to oversee implementation of the agreement. Its membership is open to enterprises located in the border oblasts. These companies' products are also displayed at a permanent exhibition there.

According to Hryhoriy Yelyshevych, head of the Sumy oblast council press center, most of the proposals voiced at the conference concerned the "removal of obstacles to normal economic and plain human communication between the oblasts, to which end we propose a special relaxed procedure for trade and border-crossing exclusive to these border oblasts."

Most of the controversy centered on licences and quotas for goods as well as customs procedures. The draft agreement has been submitted to government representatives of the two countries. The forum was for the first time attended by Zaporozhye Oblast, which also joined the permanent council. Other members are Ukraine's oblasts of Sumy, Chernigov, Lugansk, Donetsk and Kharkov and Russia's oblasts of Kursk, Belgorod, Bryansk, Rostov, and Voronezh.

U.S. Contacts Boosted Ahead of Kuchma Visit

LD0508095794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1716 GMT 4 Aug 94

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[Text] Ukrainian-American talks are supposed to be considerably accelerated before the President of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma visits the USA November this year.

Aleksandr Potekhin, Ukrainian foreign department for the USA and Canada head, reported this at a Foreign Ministry of Ukraine's briefing August 4.

As for him, US government delegation arrives to Kiev these days, which is expected to be led by the head of the department for armament and disarmament issues.

The experts will investigate problems of granting to Ukraine American assistance in accordance with a three-partite announcement by the presidents of Ukraine, Russia and the USA.

Also, Mr. Potekhin informed, defence and interior ministers of the two countries would meet in Ukraine these months.

The briefing pointed out that US policy as for our country remained unchangeable after changing supreme officials of Ukraine.

A. Potekhin stressed that the USA does not consider Ukraine's joining the Non Proliferation Treaty as a pre-condition for to render help.

Foreign Ministry Reviews Troop Casualties in Bosnia

LD0508095994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1716 GMT 4 Aug 94

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[Text] Ukrainian peacekeeping forces on the territory of former Yugoslavia suffered losses of 8 killed and 30 injured, reported chief of Foreign Ministry's Central and Eastern European Department Yevgeniy Pereligin at an August 4 briefing in Kiev.

The two Ukrainian battalions involved in protection operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina under the U.N. auspice total 1220 servicemen, he also reported.

To quote the department chief, Ukrainian government is concerned about the destiny of 20-thousand-strong Ukrainian extraction in former Yugoslavia.

There are evidences indicating that no ethnic Ukrainians are involved in the war conflict, though some of them had to leave their residences, Mr. Pereligin informed.

The Ukrainian Protection battalions have no right to make any efforts designed to protect ethnic Ukrainians as the UN "blue helmets" must defend the entire population in the war zone, Foreign Ministry's official explained to reporters.

National Affairs

Kuchma Advocates 'Presidential-Parliamentary Republic'

LD0708153194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1242 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma would like to see Ukraine as a "presidential-parliamentary" republic.

Addressing the chairpersons of local councils of people's deputies and executives of the Ukrainian North-West's agro-industrial complex in the city of Lutsk of the Volyn region, in western Ukraine, Kuchma said the existing

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parliamentary-presidential system of government failed to meet the country's needs.

In Kuchma's view, a president who received his mandate from the people, ought to be the national leader and the country's chief executive.

According to Interfax-Ukraine, the conference shared Kuchma's view.

But the left-wing parties, which control a majority of votes in the Ukrainian parliament, oppose moves to grant Kuchma more powers. They have drafted a bill on presidency which, in fact, assigns Kuchma no more than the role of Ukraine's official representative.

Moroz: Parliament Will Not Curb President's Powers

WS0808102194 Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Speaking at a news conference in Lvov on 4 August, Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz commented on the statement by the "Reforms" legislative faction to the effect that the parliamentary majority is going to attempt to limit the powers of President Kuchma. The legislative speaker deemed those allegations as "an almost complete lie." He also pointed out that the restoration of presidential structures in the provinces does not frighten him, for he believes that the president will be unable to fully subordinate the democratically elected oblast council chairmen.

Answering the question of why he supported the candidacy of Hryhoriy Omelchenko for the post of head of the Commission for Legality and Law and Order, given that the latter makes "provocative" and "populist" statements regarding the loyalty of officials holding posts at various levels, Oleksandr Moroz said: "Had I not insisted on Omelchenko's candidacy, this would have created an impression that I oppose the fight against corruption. Omelchenko wanted so much to chair that commission; thus he had to be given a chance to do so." At the same time, Moroz added, he is against "turning the commission into an investigative group." "I will personally attend to this matter," said the legislative chairman about Omelchenko's statements.

Asked whether the Ukrainian Supreme Council would allow the introduction of dual citizenship in Crimea, Oleksandr Moroz pointed out: "The issue of dual citizenship can only be discussed by two sovereign states, while in the case of Crimea such agreement, of course, cannot be reached."

Speaking about the construction of the Odessa oil terminal, the Supreme Council chairman said: "Oil terminals that currently exist in Odessa, Kherson, and Mykolayiv meet Ukraine's demand." Moroz admitted that he was rather worried by another issue—where Ukraine will get money to pay back the multimillion dollar credit received for the construction of the terminal. Moroz concluded: "I am not a specialist, but I can assure you that the Supreme Council will soon resume its discussion of this issue."

Kuchma Dismisses Deputy Prime Minister

LD0508200694 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] The Ukrainian president has issued an edict, in accordance with which Mykola Hryhorovych Zhulynskyy is discharged from the post of deputy prime minister of Ukraine [for humanitarian issues] in connection with his fulfilling the authorities and functions of a people's deputy of Ukraine on a permanent basis.

Kuchma Addresses Internal Affairs Ministry

LD0608013594 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1910 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Address by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma to a meeting at the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Kiev on 5 August—recorded]

[Text] I am not going to touch on all of the issues raised here, but will dwell only on several strategically important problems, in the resolution of which the law enforcement bodies should play an important role. My assessment of the socio-economic state of Ukraine is well-known. I am not going to repeat it. I will just note that I consider the situation to be critical and such as demands urgent and resolute anti-crisis measures, both of an economic and a political nature.

Among the many factors urging on the processes of self-destruction of the economy (?and) Ukrainian society there are also some that either border on the crime-generating sphere or are of an openly illegal nature. If one is to make a political assessment of this phenomenon, then we should recognize frankly that a fifth power was being formed in Ukraine: The power of the shadow economy and of illegally accumulated wealth, a power, which has grown and strengthened by robbing the state and one's own people. This power is invisible.

But now it is the most substantial power. It possesses real levers of influence on state bodies of all levels, on the determination of our economic system, on law enforcement institutions and the mass media, on the formation of public opinion, and any social issues. The majority of Ukraine's citizens now intuitively senses this power. Suffice it to say that, according to sociological assessments, almost half of the population believes that specifically this power determines the direction of the political and development of Ukraine today.

As president of Ukraine, I understand very well the importance of a statement by the highest official of the state. And therefore I would like to assure you that before actually recognizing the existence of this force,

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now a political one, we seriously analyzed the administrative activity of state bodies in recent years, foreign economic activity, and the situation in the state and market sectors of the economy. Operational information of the relevant law enforcement bodies was studied in detail.

Based on these grounds I confirm that a semi-criminal fifth power truly exists in Ukraine now. However, I will not resort to cheap populism or dramatize the situation. I know very well that this power does not have a single center now, that acute internal contradictions are inherent within it, and that it has not managed to take full control of the state or the mass media so far. But the tendency for this force to grow is a threatening one, and we now have the last chance to stop the mafiazation [mafiyanizatsiya] of Ukrainian society.

In order to effectively counteract this, one should clearly define the nature of this phenomenon, its deepest roots. I will dwell only on some reasons for the growth of this cancerous tumor in our society.

The first is the shadow economy. We should recognize that unconsciously or consciously the state itself facilitated the vigorous formation of this third sector of the economy—by its taxation, foreign economic, and currency policy, and by the system of regulating some spheres of economic activity. We simply drove whole sectors of our economy into the shadows.

Therefore, what we should do above all is substantially change state economic policy and legislative activity, which in a number of cases forced entrepreneurs and managers in the state sector to go into the so-called economic shadows, and even to become associated with direct crime. Naturally this is not an issue of law enforcement bodies, but of the president, government, and the Supreme Council. We have already been working on this issue, and we hope that the parliament will join us too.

Secondly, unfortunately under conditions of the reorganization of power and a substantial change in society, a certain number of the state's officials, from the lowest to the highest level, did not refrain from the temptation to get rich from national funds. The economic conditions and the atmosphere of irresponsibility in the higher echelons of power create a system to facilitate this. A singular state racket has been established. Bribery and corruption have become integral attributes of certain state institutions and organizations.

Those most encumbered with power in fact turned their state authorities and state property into a means of personal enrichment. Cases when the highest government officials thought up such schemes of economic activity, which made it possible for excess profits to be made exclusively by structures under their influence, to personally become rich and to deal a blow to economic competitors, are especially harmful to the state. And all of this happened under the cover of state powers, with which the people entrusted these individuals for entirely different purposes.

An example could be the sale (?of valuable fuel)—The press has been going on about this for a long time—which was carried out on the instruction of leaders of the previous government. The procurator's office is currently investigating this case. But tens of such transactions were carried out.

Whole semi-criminal clans appeared on this soil monopolizing individual sectors of the economy seriously influencing all layers of state authority.

The main thing which corrupts officials is the lack of punishment for unlawful actions. It is an open secret that Ukraine has lost approximately 15 billion dollars. It has got to the point when some foreign mass media are now plainly pointing out that individual state officials have become dollar millionaires and are among the richest people of Europe and not a single one of them has been made liable.

Thirdly, the fifth power, which we are talking about, also has a layer of essentially criminal origin. At issue are those coming from the criminal world, who acquired considerable capital by criminal means, and first of all went over to the sphere of activity of legal business, and are now vigorously making their way to power. Many of them act by grossly bribing officials and employees of the law enforcement bodies, who then look after them.

The more experienced ones do not begrudge funds for the direct support of political parties and individual politicians. Such activity was especially vigorous during the election campaigns. Attempts to acquire deputy mandates even by direct representatives from mafia groups are well-known. The passage of certain draft laws in parliament demonstrates that the influence of the fifth power in the Supreme Council is noticeable. Thus state power now has a serious competitor in its attempt to restore civilized and democratic management of society.

What do I consider necessary to stop the criminalization of authority, the economy, and society as a whole? As president I will take all necessary measures to deprive the fifth power of the possibility of making use of the government and other state institutions for its own purposes, and to stop the plundering of the state. Everyone, who has put his hand into the people's pockets, should be made liable according to the degree of the offense.

This is necessary so that they understand in the corridors of power that the time of irresponsibility has passed. Because without this, we will not implement a single economic program, not even the most sound one. In order to effectively combat mafia forces, strong state power is needed, especially its executive and judicial branches. Incidentally, this is also one of the motives for the president's vigorous measures to form a fully-fledged executive power, but on essentially constitutional principles.

Work will presently be finished on economic, political, and legal arguments for a model of development of

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executive power in Ukraine. Immediately upon the completion of this work, corresponding Ukrainian presidential decrees will be signed and draft laws will be submitted to Ukraine's Supreme Council. A strong executive power of Ukraine will be constructed whatever the circumstances. No one should have any doubts on this, even those who even now wish very much to see the institution of the presidency only as a representative body.

The law enforcement bodies are a constituent part of executive power. Their main task is to bar the criminalization of society, to stop the growth in criminal offenses, and to ensure the safety of the individual. The first presidential decree was devoted specifically to this issue.

I understand that if a lofty official figures in a case, even the highest ranking director of a law enforcement body is incapable of obtaining the truth. For this, the political will of the highest leadership is necessary. This will exists today. A legal decree (?has been formulated).

The main thing for me was to demonstrate that the president was ready to challenge the criminal world, but not just street hooligans, and not even racketeering groups, although this is no less important, but those, who grab millions of dollars, make use of their official position, put their hand into the people's pockets, and leave the population and the economy without medicines, oil products, and other most essential items. The president has shown his will and has gone on the offensive.

But I have already said at a meeting at Ukraine's Security Service that the troops still remain mainly in the trenches and you have heard plenty about this today. Serious cases are not being completed. First of all we have to work out why.

I understand that there are objective reasons here too. Probably a case, in which lofty officials figure and the scale of which threatens the state's economic security, cannot be completed autonomously by a single one of the law enforcement departments. Therefore I consider it expedient to create under the guidance of the procuracy special interdepartmental investigative groups, which will be involved with these cases. For the period of their activity these groups should be independent of the departments and subordinate directly to the president. These groups, together with measures of an economic nature, should deal a serious blow to the so-called fifth power.

This is, so to speak, a measure of an urgent nature.

Second of all, it is necessary to seriously analyze the state of affairs in the law enforcement bodies themselves. With regard to the activity of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, I consider it unsatisfactory. The change of minister and dismissal of collegium members are connected namely with this.

The speeches, which we heard today, provide even more grounds to consider this assessment an objective one, and personnel changes to be right. I put great hope in the new minister, Volodymyr Ivanovych Radchenko, and expect that he will be able to substantially reorganize the militia, make the internal climate healthy, and raise the efficiency of the campaign against crime.

I think you know what I am talking about. The strength of the ministry is practically equal to the strength of the Armed Forces now. But does the population feel that a whole army is protecting them from bandits? No. Why not? Because only 20 percent, so the report by the minister today said, is engaged in real operational investigative work, and because managers do not bear responsibility for the activity of bodies subordinate to them.

In Lvov, Kherson, and Zaporozhye oblasts, and Kiev City, so it has been said today too, crime is increasing, the percentage of solved crimes is falling, and heads of directorates are promoted to lieutenant-general, although four to five years ago there were no lieutenant-generals at all in these posts. In one and a half years, Internal Affairs Ministry personnel have examined almost 5,000 submissions for early promotion of a colonel and exceeding the bounds [as heard]— and I ask you, for what successes? Can someone reply to my question?

It has to be carefully studied who in the leadership of the Internal Affairs Ministry travelled where abroad and with what purpose, and how hard currency funds allocated to the Ministry were used. It is necessary to study many other issues too, and to clearly determine responsibility for the detected violations and faults. I know, and you know, that some of the employees of the Internal Affairs Ministry are also under the influence of the fifth power. In the last year alone almost 200 militia employees were made criminally liable. This is a lot. Too many. We understand perfectly well how much damage one dishonest militiaman connected to a criminal group can do. In fact he can neutralize the activity of the whole sub-unit. But you number tens of such people, and these are just the ones, who got caught. How many more are there?

A dishonest person with power is more dangerous than a criminal. This is self-evident. Therefore bodies of internal security in the Internal Affairs Ministry should definitely be seriously strengthened. I believe that bodies of Ukraine's Security Service should also strengthen the protection of law enforcement bodies from penetration by elements of the criminal world. Essentially professional potential should be accumulated in the militia bodies.

The accounts heard today provide additional grounds to maintain that the militia does not have serious positions for operational investigative activity or the campaign against crime. Well-staffed patrol groups are only an imitation of activity. Taking account of the open nature of my speech, I am not giving details of this idea and

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expect professionals to understand me. And if you have understood what is meant, then you should remember that demands in this direction will seriously increase.

Another important problem is stepping up cooperation with law enforcement bodies of neighboring countries. Organized criminal groups of Ukrainian citizens are operating in the majority of those countries. This is now a serious problem for your foreign counterparts and harms our international prestige.

A separate important task for the militia is protection of the individual. People do not feel safe. They are psychologically not ready to accept that not only in distant Western countries, but in our towns now as well, criminal groups make extensive use of firearms, and arrange explosions and contract murders. During my last trip to the southern regions the peasants simply asked me to help them protect themselves from criminals who rob villages and take food products. I understand their concern and ask the new leadership to pay serious attention to this issue.

Another danger of a weakening in the campaign against crime is that the people, brought to despair, could begin to arbitrarily and spontaneously combat crime with illegal methods, even going as far as lynchings. This could lead to a destabilization of the situation in certain towns and regions.

Moroz Visits Lvov, Discusses Socialist Platform

LD0508102394 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1832 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Lvov—Ukraine's Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz has ended his one-day visit to Lvov. In the afternoon, he met the leaders of the local parties, movements, creative unions, and ethnic cultural societies who voiced their concerns and wishes to the parliament leader. Most of them urged that ethnic societies and creative unions be exempted from taxes and granted benefits to expand their activities. The Ukrainian Supreme Council chairman held a press conference for the national press at 1500 GMT. Asked what kind of socialism he was going to build, Oleksandr Moroz referred the audience to the Ukrainian Socialist party's election program. "Incidentally, the election was won on the Socialist Party's platform," he said. The Ukrainian parliament leader sharply criticized statements in the Lvov newspapers HOLOS NATSII [Voice of the Nation] and ZA VILNU UKRAINU [For a Free Ukraine] accusing them of "sowing the seeds of anti-Semitism." Asked whether he supported introduction of Russian as an official language and what the definition of the "official language" was, Oleksandr Moroz evaded the question, referring the audience to international documents where the concept was clearly defined and promising to publish the above documents in the HOLOS UKRAINY newspaper. Moroz paid considerable attention to the diversity of political views in the east, south, and west of Ukraine. He declared that he saw nothing wrong in that, saying that "everyone loves his land in his own way" and "there is no monopoly on love for the land and the people."

Answering a question on whether the parliament was going to solve the issue on rendering financial aid to the former victims of repressions, and the issue on resettling the people who were driven by force behind the Urals and to Kazakhstan in post-war years in Ukraine, Moroz said that this issue should not be solved in a hasty manner, because it needs a balanced approach and any hasty moves in this direction might be misunderstood in the east and, in general, "history cannot be rewritten."

Responding to a remark from journalists that the parliament had virtually halted privatization and that this could lead to huge losses and a stoppage of foreign investments, Moroz noted that the privatization which had been carried out before now inflicted more losses on Ukraine than its suspension. Besides, the resolution does not halt privatization but directs it along legal trends.

Replying to a question on the so-called CIS borders, Moroz said this issue, as a whole, was far-fetched, however, "sometimes one should look at Ukraine and its neighbors from the height of 200 kilometers, and then one can arrive at a conclusion that sometimes it would be better to defend Ukraine's borders not where the border posts are erected, but at a large distance from it."

A question was asked by a UNIAN correspondent on Moroz's attitude toward the press reports alleging that a decree is being prepared in the president's office on direct subordination of chairmen of local councils to the president, and also on his attitude to the fact that the "Reformy" group circulated a statement accusing the Ukrainian Supreme Council chairman and the socialist-communist majority he heads in parliament of their desire to limit the president's powers and, in general, to bring the institute of presidency to naught. Moroz responded by saying: As far as I know, one can only talk about a decree which will pass the authority functions once vested in president's representatives to the chairmen of oblast councils. And this is normal. They will head both the representative and the executive powers; to put it in a nutshell—they will be vested with the powers once exercised by secretaries of the oblast committees. As far as the statement by the "Reformy" group is concerned, this is an outright lie which I would not like even to comment on. Besides, no majority exists in parliament. There are three almost equal groupings: the left-wingers, the centrists and the right-wingers. I understand that someone does not want me to be the chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Council, but this will not happen.

Socioeconomic Development Concept Approved

WS0508100094 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 2 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Cabinet of Ministers Department for Elucidating the Work of the Government: "The Plan for Tomorrow"]

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[Text] At a Cabinet of Ministers' meeting yesterday chaired by Ukrainian Prime Minister Masol, a draft concept for devising a plan for Ukraine's socioeconomic development for 1995 was discussed. The plan's principal goal is to stabilize production, curb inflation, and prevent a further decline in people's living standards. Its priorities, in terms of importance to the state, include the development of the agro-industrial and fuel and energy complexes, the introduction of energy-and resource-saving technologies, the reconstruction of the national economy to boost production and sales of industrial and consumer products, the implementation of urgent environmental protection measures, and the acceleration of developing the medical and microbiological industries.

The plan is to reflect performance of enterprises with all types of ownership. The implementation of the plan's indicators and the state contract for state-run enterprises and nonstate monopolistic enterprises will be mandatory.

The plan will be largely oriented toward the use of economic methods in managing the economy. The main effort will be directed at crushing inflation. State control over prices will be executed only on basic raw materials, energy and fuel, goods for children, foodstuffs of social importance, basic municipal services, medicine, and the production of monopolistic manufacturers.

The state will impose tough controls on the circulation of money. It is expected that the payment crisis will be overcome, hard currency rates gradually introduced, and credit policies normalized. Budget expenditures will not exceed income. It is planned to impose taxes on profits, and revise taxation procedures and tax brackets. Mandatory income statements will also be introduced.

Specific steps will be undertaken to demonopolize the economy, provide a competitive environment, and promote small business. The state will facilitate the implementation of land reform and the creation of agricultural production with many types of ownership, as well as a relevant market infrastructure.

Approving the draft concept in general, the Cabinet of Ministers tasked ministries and organizations with devising a draft plan for Ukraine's socioeconomic development for 1995, for submittal to the government by late September.

Cabinet Amends Excise Duty, VAT Rules

LD0608184294 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Kiev, 6 Aug—Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers has adopted a resolution on making changes to the list of goods and products on which an excise duty is imposed and to the rate of this duty. The document was adopted with the aim of stimulating Ukrainian production and increasing purchasing demand and the competitiveness of individual types of goods and products on the domestic market. In particular, ethyl alcohol, fine wines and ordinary table wines, tobacco products, imported video equipment, and color television sets are included among these goods. The resolution takes effect on 10 August of this year.

Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers has also adopted a resolution on granting certain concessions with regard to the value-added tax. Goods brought into Ukraine as humanitarian aid, raw materials, medicines, scientific equipment, and scientific, and technical and educational literature are exempt from tax when crossing Ukraine's customs border. The value added tax is not imposed on domestic and consumer services, Ukrainian raw materials, and so on.

Radetskyy Says Military Doctrine May Be Revised

LD0508202294 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1838 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Chernigov [No dateline as received]—Replying to a question from a UNIAN correspondent today, on whether the military doctrine of Ukraine corresponds to the current situation, Ukraine's Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy pointed out that at a time when the Supreme Council of Ukraine was adopting it, it corresponded to the realities of that time but now changes can be introduced in it. Probably, certain provisions will be reconsidered. In particular, according to the present-day military doctrine, Ukraine is a nonaligned state; however, as Vitaliy Radetskyy pointed out, "today no one can defend his state independently."

Today the Defense Ministry delegation visited the Chernigov training railway regiment. Also today, a military exercise took place on the Desna River in the vicinity of Chernigov during which floating railway bridge NZM-56 was launched. This 532 meter-long bridge with a maximum load capacity of 2,500 tonnes is capable of carrying a railway train and a column of trucks or armored vehicles simultaneously. A similar military operation was carried out eight years ago, back in the times of the USSR. Today, 40 servicemen of Belarus took part in it along with the pontoon bridge battalion and some other subunits of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

Summing up the results of the exercise, Vitaliy Radetskyy said it is desirable that, apart from the servicemen of Belarus, the servicemen of Russia also take part in a comprehensive military exercise of the railway and engineer troops planned to be held in 1995. "It is high time for us to lay bridges in the full sense of this word," said the defense minister of Ukraine.

Shmarov Promises Support To Nuclear Power Industry

LD0508200894 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Following his visit to the Khmelnitskiy nuclear power station, Deputy Prime Minister Valeriy Shmarov

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visited the Rovno AES [nuclear electric power station] on 5 August. A conference was held there upon his initiative. It was attended by leaders of the oblast Council of People's Deputies and the station, as well as leading specialists of a number of departments accompanying Valeriy Shmarov.

The discussion centered around the factors that can step up the efficiency of this nuclear power station. Its director, Volodymyr (Korobkin), emphasized that in order to achieve this the state should contribute to the improvement of the financial and economic state of the station. The necessity of raising tariffs for the electricity produced by domestic nuclear power stations has long become imminent. The payments mechanism for electricity by the consumers at the inter-industry level should also be revised so as to prevent them from being involved in debt to the nuclear power engineering enterprises. The Rovno nuclear power station is also facing the problem of a slow pace of repair work at the third power unit and actual stoppage of the construction of the fourth unit. The station is already running out of its own funds for this.

The conference was concluded by a speech by Valeriy Shmarov. He pointed out that the time of insufficient attention on the part of the state to the problems facing this leading industry of the economy has passed. The government will do everything within its powers to free the work of Ukrainian nuclear power stations from any difficulties.

Meshkov 'Takes Refuge' in Moscow

MK0508095694 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 5 Aug 94 p 4

[Natalya Kalashnikova, Aelita Kochetkova report in the "Crimea's Economic Policy" column: "Crimea's 'Pioneers' Have Made Friends with Kiev Bureaucrats"—two last paragraphs are commentary by Maksim Sokolov]

[Excerpts] Whether Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov has met with the famous "Zurich gnomes"—as the custodians of the keys and safes of the world's most reliable Swiss banks are called—no one in the Crimean government seems to know. And although there are plenty of rumors about Meshkov's secretive foreign policy, he has never reported to anyone about the objectives or results of his trips to Switzerland and other remote countries (made, incidentally, in the days which were politically critical for the peninsula). This was announced Wednesday evening by Crimean Vice Premier Yevgeniy Saburov. The government itself however is making no secret of its interest in banking affairs.

On 3 August Crimea Economy Minister Andrey Chernyavskiy and Republic Bank chief Anatoliy Burdyugov went to Kiev. After the presidential elections the relations with the "metropolitan state" have visibly warmed up; at least none of the peninsula's officials complains that his opinion has been ignored by the center. And therefore the Simferopol visitors, shedding their former suspiciousness, decided to discuss a rather delicate question with the Kievans: A decree by the Crimean government on licensing foreign bank activity. This issue is delicate because there has been a sad precedent—registration by the former Kiev authorities of the Russian Natsionalnyy Kredit bank's division. At the time the Simferopol authorities had to act at their own risk, which however moved them to create their own, republican, legislative basis for organizing banking activity in Crimea. Now the corresponding documents have been adopted, including "Regulations on Procedures for Registration and Licensing of National Banks on the Territory of the Republic of Crimea" with appended instructions. The documents are to be coordinated with Kiev, but Simferopol has no doubts that this process, unlike in the past, will move along painlessly. [passage omitted]

According to the official version, Crimea's President Yuriy Meshkov is taking part in an anticommunist congress underway in Moscow, but according to unofficial reports, which nonetheless are worthy of attention, he is hiding from an attempt on his life. Meshkov is accompanied by his whole family, the value of whose participation in an anticommunist congress is dubious. Meshkov avoids any meetings, not making exceptions even for the Moscow city government which is very friendly toward him. This ill-mannered seclusion is hard to explain otherwise than by some weighty reasons. Although the Crimean press service is strongly denying a report that Kortselava, an entrepreneur recently killed (a friend of Podanev, the Sevastopol mafia boss who was assassinated earlier) was Meshkov's economic adviser, the president's reaction to Kortselava's assassination, i.e., immediate departure reminiscent of flight, is impressive.

Analysts attribute Meshkov's behavior to the fact that the president is pressed between three powerful mafia-style groups dividing Crimea. Placed in such a squeeze, the Crimean president is concerned with the problem of pure physical survival, which makes senseless the question of whether he is capable of conducting even a nominally independent policy.

Crimean Parliament Chairman Favors Union With Russia

LD0808130394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1122 GMT 8 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lev Ryabchikov]

[Text] Simferopol August 8 TASS—The "Russia" political bloc, which commands a parliamentary majority in the Crimea, has no intention of giving up its goal of "the Crimea's reunion with Russia, spiritual, cultural, economic, as well as political", Sergey Tsekov, Crimean Supreme Soviet chairman, said at a press conference today.

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"But it must be understood that the reunion will be carried out step-by-step and at its proper time. For the time being, the Crimea must become a friendship-bridge between Ukraine and Russia, not an apple of discord," Tsekov emphasised.

Replying to a question about the prospects of signing a treaty with Ukraine, Sergey Tsekov noted that, with Leonid Kuchma's election as president of Ukraine, relations between Ukraine and the Crimea have "warmed up considerably", but, in his opinion, however this bears an "unofficial character".

A lull has set in between the republic's and Ukraine's supreme soviets which, according to Tsekov, will be replaced by active work after the parliamentary vacation.

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Belarus

Lukashenka Praises Results of Moscow Visit

LD0708201994 Moscow NTV in Russian 1700 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Statement by Belarus President Aleksandr Lukashenka to unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "Itogi" newscast—live or recorded]

[Text] To my great joy, I am returning to Minsk with concrete results. First: the president of Russia and I have made each other's acquaintance. We found that we, as he has put it, are not allergic to each other and moreover, Yeltsin, the Russian Federation president, has turned out to be a most decent man. Everything we agreed in the morning was passed on to the government with concrete instructions, and the government has fulfilled those instructions. This included help in a sphere which is very important to us today, because do you know where we have let our economy slide down to?

So I am bringing back concrete results to the Belarusian people. People are getting ready for the winter now and I will tell them that we will be getting help from the west and from the IMF for as long as we ourselves go on trying to do something about the situation.

You know, we have overestimated our approaches to merging our monetary systems. In the run-up to the elections, people were pressing forward out of populism. We did not listen to what Russia was telling us and what it was warning us about. It warned us about serious problems. If we want to destroy the economy in the Republic of Belarus today then we should merge the monetary systems. Just think: Their inflation rate is 5 percent and ours is 40 percent. How is this possible? We would not survive this, so we must get inflation down first and in this way come a little closer to the Russian economy in terms of reforms. If we succeed in this then the real question of uniting the monetary systems could arise. The treaty is ready. We have reworded it in some places and thus completed our talks. Therefore, by the time Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin visit our republic in mid-autumn, we should be ready to submit this treaty.

When I was going to Moscow, many said: Who will talk to this Lukashenka? But they did talk to me, and on an equal footing at that, and we made agreements and resolved different issues. I am glad to say that I was understood in Russia and that I was supported in Russia. I am speaking the truth when I am saying that it was not a conversation of one politician with another but of the representatives of two fraternal peoples. What some of my enemies and opponents were hoping for did not happen. Russia has begun talks with a new generation of politicians in the Republic of Belarus, represented, to my great joy, by President Lukashenka.

Presidential Aid Comments on Talks

LD0508171394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 5 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] At a press conference in Minsk Friday, head of the presidential administration Leonid Sinitsyn declared about Alyaksandr Lukashenka's intentions to cut down the governmental apparatus by 30 percent. "This is not just a tribute to vogue but an economic necessity," Sinitsyn noted.

He reported that on the whole the expenditures for the management apparatus in the republic are about 1 percent of the state budget "but Belarus is unable to allocate even this sum due to a deep economic crisis in the republic." Maximum reduction of budget expenditures is one of the most important items in Lukashenka's pre-election program, Sinitsyn reminded.

In Sinitsyn's words, he proposed to the president to create a group which would examine the issue on Russian troops stationing on the Belarussian territory. In accordance with the plan of their stage-by-stage withdrawal confirmed by both parties, the last Russian military unit is to leave Belarus in 1998. However, Russia proposed to Belarus to consider the possibility whether Russia could retain the right to utilize several Russian military sites, in particular, the Gantsevichiy radar station and the station to command and control Russia's military fleet in the Baltic Sea, which is situated in the city of Vileika.

As Sinitsyn reported, this issue was discussed during the meeting between Russian and Belarussian presidents on August 3 in Moscow but, as he said, "the Belarussian party did not use it as a trump card." "Belarus has no ambitious geopolitical plans, it does not need these military sites at all because we are unable to maintain them," Sinitsyn declared. "On the other hand it is hard for Russia to build analogical new sites on its territory from the economic point of view," he noted. Sinitsyn made it clear that the issues related to utilization of such military sites would become subject of further negotiations between Belarus and Russia "but we shall adopt a reasonable and mutually beneficial decision."

"Belarus and Russia have entered a deeper stage of integration compared with other CIS states," Sinitsyn believes. At the same time he recognized that it is impossible to immediately unite monetary systems of two countries due to Belarus' lagging behind in the pace of economic reforms," actual presence of national currencies in the monetary circulation of both countries, and Belarus' substantial leadership in inflation rates. Sinitsyn reported that in the course of their meeting in Moscow heads of both states reached an agreement "to precisely determine concrete principles of unification of Belarus' and Russia' monetary systems."

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Having stressed that he expresses his own opinion, Sinitsyn pointed to the need to radically deepen market transformations in Belarus. In particular, he deems its necessary to start creating Belarussian-Russian financial-industrial groups. The Belarussian president voiced the idea of their creation during his negotiations with Boris Yeltsin in Moscow, Sinitsyn reported.

In his words, "relations between Belarus and Russia should be built on Principles of good neighborhood and mutual understanding." The major move in this direction is supposed to be made this September-October when Russian President Boris Yeltsin is expected to come on an official visit to Minsk, Sinitsyn reminded. "A large political treaty" on good neighborhood relations and cooperation is expected to be signed in the course of this trip, Sinitsyn said.

Defense Minister on Future of Russian Military Bases

LD0508175594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 5 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] The Belarussian and Russian presidents during a recent summit in Moscow had agreed, among other things, on the need to prepare a package of military and political agreements to be signed between the two countries. But the topic was discussed at length during talks between Belarussian Defense Chief [Minister] Anatol Kastenka and Russia's First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin. In an interview with Interfax in Minsk, KASTENKA revealed what exactly had been discussed.

INTERFAX: Did you discuss the future of two Russian military installations deployed in Belarus, a radar station at Gantsevichi and a Baltic Fleet command station at Vileika, which seems to have been at the center of discussions before Lukashenka's visit to Moscow?

KASTENKA: We focused on a general concept of military cooperation rather than the details. As for the two stations and other Russian installations in our country, it was agreed that these must be part of an overall integration system.

IF: Did the question of delaying Russian troop withdrawals come on the agenda given the declared intention by the new Belarussian government to seek closer military cooperation with Russia?

KASTENKA: No. Russia is strictly observing the schedule of troop withdrawals, but as our president said, we do not insist on speeding up the process because of the difficulties this may cause both to Russia and us. We must now try to work out a cooperation program that could help carry out Russian pullout at a minimum loss. The question is one of minimizing environmental damage, preserving army compounds, and providing housing for departing Russian servicemen. We have reached a high level of understanding on this.

IF: Some say Moscow wants to link economic aid to Belarus with further Russian military presence there. To what extent are such theories justified?

KASTENKA: Any speculations about such military blackmail have no grounds at all. Russia's position is very sensible. It does not set any political conditions or seek unilateral advantages. Russia has made no single step to arouse our suspicions or put its military presence at risk. We also made some concessions including a relaxation of leasing terms for the Russian troops. We have now reached a level of understanding and cooperation to ensure that an amicable solution can be find to whatever problem arises.

Lukashenka 'Not Hasty' Over Borders, Monetary Issues

MM0508133094 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Ilin: "Belorussia's President Is Swift, But Not Hasty"]

[Text] It could be said that the 3 August meeting between Belorussian [Belarusian] President A. Lukashenka and the Russian press was brief, even swift. In the space of 30 minutes, Alyaksandr Hrihoryavich managed to answer roughly 20 questions from journalists in a fairly in-depth manner, so it is perfectly believable that, in the space of a one-day visit to Moscow, he could quite easily have discussed 20 questions with Boris Yeltsin and Viktor Chernomyrdin in an equally in-depth manner.

However, the quantity is not the point. Everybody, of course, wanted to know how the main problems of debts and credits and the creation of a single monetary system for the two countries were resolved, if, indeed, they were resolved at all. On this point, Belorussia's first president showed, as did his official Moscow interlocutors, that he knows how not to be hasty. The final decisions, by mutual agreement, were postponed for approximately two months—until Boris Yeltsin's scheduled visit to Minsk. Then it is planned to sign a treaty on friendship and cooperation between Russia and Belorussia [Belarus] too.

"It is amazing," Lukashenka said, "that to this day no such treaty exists between two fraternal Slav peoples."

The president of Belorussia is in favor of transparent borders between the three Slav republics and, for his part, he is ready even tomorrow to remove all customs posts and other attributes complicating human interrelations. After all, 1.5 million Russians live in Belorussia (incidentally, roughly the same number of Belorussians live in the Russian Federation). However, it is the same old story.... Other partners are not yet prepared for such a speedy turn of events. So no matter how hard our

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television colleague tried to get a specific date for achieving transparency of borders, viewers were only able to learn of the Belorussian president's good disposition toward this.

It was also interesting to learn A. Lukashenka's view of the "discrepancies" which, to judge from the press, have already come to light between his election program and initial steps since the elections. He complained mildly about Russian journalists who tried to paint a less than flattering portrait of the victor in Belorussia's presidential race, and categorically rejected uncertainty about departures from election promises. Both the fight against inflation and the attack on corruption will go ahead as promised. Priorities for the president's team include the restoration of "idiotically destroyed economic links" between countries after the collapse of the USSR.

Alyaksandr Hrihoryavich replied to a question on how relations between the president and other political forces in the republic are developing, especially those with the communists and the People's Front led by Z. Poznyak, with another question: How do you expect them to be developing if I have the support of 80 percent of the voters behind me? Indeed, the president needs confidence in his own forces. Especially as there is no end of work ahead of him.

Foreign Minister on Improving Economy, Russia Ties

LD0508164894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1408 GMT 5 Aug 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] New Belarus Foreign Minister Vladimir Senko said it was the principal immediate task of his ministry "To provide as favorable conditions as possible for the improvement of the economic situation" in the former Soviet republic.

The task is "arch-difficult," Belarus having "no stable image in the world arena," Senko said in an interview with Interfax. "The provision of favorable conditions for (Belarus's) economic development is above all the job of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, but the Foreign Ministry possesses additional political levers of influence, and it is our duty to make use of them," he said.

The minister said that Belarus was going to pay serious attention to cooperation with the neighboring states of Ukraine, Poland, Lithuania and Latvia but that developing friendly relations with Russia would be the top priority for his ministry. What explained the need for this was "a close relationship" between the two countries, "the origins of which go a long way back into history, and the considerable economic dependence of Belarus on Russia," he said.

But he voiced concern over the two states' "differences on some points," which, he said, had become particularly evident during Belarussian-Russian talks in Moscow on August 3.

What also has a "negative effect" on the relations between Belarus and Russia are "the ever-deeper problems in their economic links and increasing differences in their economic reforms," Senko said. For example, the fact that the two countries have separate currencies is an obstacle for people wishing to visit their relatives living in the nearby state, he said.

On Belarus's participation in international organizations, Senko said the country should not do more than it is able to. "The recent increase in contributions for the maintenance of U.N. peacekeeping forces has caused Belarus tremendous problems," he said. Whereas previously the republic annually allocated $12 million for the purpose, today it has to pay about $30 million, he said.

"Belarus, which, in spite of being engulfed in an economic crisis, is spending tremendous amounts of money on work to nullify the effects of the accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant and get rid of surplus armaments, is not in a position to pay such large sums," the minister said.

Commenting on the problem of distribution of former Soviet property abroad, Senko said it would "attract attention for a long time to come." He said Belarus "is not impressed by the Russian leadership's delays with a solution to the problem," which was one of the subjects he discussed at his meeting with Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov in Moscow on August 3.

Belarus-Russian Joint Stock Companies To Be Formed

WS0508133494 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1200 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Leanid Sinitsyn, chief of the Belarusian presidential administration, has told a BELINFORM correspondent that, as a result of talks with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, it was decided to work out a mechanism for cooperation between Russian and Belarusian entrepreneurs at two or three Belarusian enterprises. [Belarusian President] Alyaksandr Lukashenka will personally oversee one such (?venture). The enterprise that will fall under the president's direct control is the Khimvolokno Mahilyow production amalgamation.

It is a paradoxical situation, Leanid Sinitsyn stated. Our enterprises are standing idle because raw materials are not coming from Russia, due to their very high prices. At the same time, there is demand in the Russian Federation for goods produced in Belarus, and Russian enterprises are also suffering from similar stoppages.

In the course of the talks, it was decided to establish joint stock or financial-industrial corporations or companies, which will operate in both states. There will be no customs houses or tax barriers for them. We are doing it so that there is a completely free flow of capital. We have already learned that everything cannot be solved by

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administrative methods, or by signing treaties and agreements. One must learn mechanisms for cooperation in practice.

Ministry Says Austria To Provide Investment Credit

WS0508145094 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1400 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] According to the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, the Government of Austria is willing for giving a credit worth 5 billion Austrian schillings to invest to the Belarusian economy. The woodworking production amalgamation "Bobruyskdrev" has already received first batches of technological equipment on this credit. Besides, the resources of the credit are expected to be used for the reconstruction of the Minsk-based "Svisloch" hotel into a hotel on a level with the highest world standards, and for the reconstruction of the Molodechno meat processing and packing factory. About 10 more various projects are now under consideration by both sides.

Lukashenka Suspends Tax Privileges for Civil Servants

LD0508104694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 5 Jul 94

[Text] The Belarusian president has suspended the decision of the Council of Ministers whereby civil servants had the opportunity to obtain tax credits for building and acquiring housing. As the BELINFORM agency was informed at the president's administration, this decree was occasioned by Alyaksandr Lukashenka's personal position which he expressed back in the election campaign. According to Lukashenka, employees of the state apparatus cannot allow themselves privileges when the people are deprived.

Prosecutor Reports Election Violations

LD0508123094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1107 GMT 5 Aug 94

[By BELINFORM correspondent Svetlana Kalinkina for TASS]

[Text] Minsk August 5 TASS—The recent elections of the first Byelorussian [Belarusian] president were analysed by several agencies. The republican prosecutor's office was one of the first to examine the election results right "on the heels" of the campaign.

Examining the election race from the viewpoint of observance of operating legislation, Byelorussian Prosecutor-General Vassili Sholodonov was forced to state the following: "The analysis of signals checked by prosecutors and of reports on violations of electoral legislation shows that there were numerous facts of ignoring the law during the election campaign and on the election day of the first Byelorussian president.

"The prosecutor's office instituted five criminal cases during the election campaign, issued 14 decisions on administrative wrong- doings and 12 people were officially warned. The office also issued five directions and representations to undo violations of law."

For instance, over 13,000 dumped balloting papers were found in the capital city Minsk at the run-off elections. Part of them were filled out. Two signatures were put on the reverse side, as it was provided for by law.

It is unclear for the time being from which polling stations they were taken and whether they were at those polling stations at all. The Minsk prosecutor's office is investigating the case.

The prosecutor's office in the Dribinsky district, Mogilev region, also instituted a criminal case against rigging up the elections.

"Well-wishers" at a polling station in that district (including chairman of the precinct commission) made changes in the balloting papers after unsealing ballot boxes: they struck out the name of president-elect Aleksandr Lukashenka from them. All in all, they "corrected" 353 papers in such an original way.

Some violations are still waiting for their legal appraisal. For instance, leaflets were circulated in Minsk, the Brest, Mogilev, Vitebsk and Gomel regions on the eve of the run-off elections, smearing the then presidential hopeful Lukashenka.

An investigation showed that the leaflets were printed in Minsk on an order from the sponsoring group supporting the other candidate—Vyacheslav Kebich. Printing charges for them topped one billion rubles, despite the fact that the federal budget appropriated only 20 million roubles for such purposes.

These charges were not footed by anybody up to this time. An additional investigation is being held into this fact, following which a criminal case will probably be initiated.

There are facts pointing to the need for making urgent changes in operating legislation, since it promotes violations.

The republican prosecutor's office proposed that the Byelorussian parliament should review the procedure of collecting signatures in support for presidential candidates, banning collection at workplaces of sponsoring group members who demand signatures from their subordinates.

A similar ban should be applied to those going from door to door for the same purpose. Facts were registered in many regions when superiors put pressure on their subordinates, forcing them to vote for some or other nominee.

The prosecutor's office also suggested that parliament make another amendment to the electoral law, the need

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for which "popped up" literally on the first days of the election race. According to its opinion, it is necessary to formalise a requirement in legislation, releasing a presidential candidate from his post during the election race.

Time will show a response of the legislature to proposals by the prosecutor's office. However, Lukashenka said on the day when he was given the certificate of Byelorussian president that he, using his powers, will help to punish those guilty of violating law, since the republic is on the eve of new polls—general elections.

It is very important, he noted, that the elections should be held in an honest and open race.

'Unprecedented' Decline in Production Reported

WS0808114094 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1000 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] The RID news agency has secured data which illustrate the rate of decline in the Republic's production sector, which reached unprecedented levels at the beginning of this year. According to data from the Economy Ministry, the decline in January amounted to 37.4 percent, in February—35.6 percent, in March—31.4 percent, in April—28.5 percent, and in May—32.5 percent. During the first five months of 1994, the overall decline in industrial production was twice as great as during the corresponding period last year. The main reason behind this is a crisis in product sales, which has particularly affected the processing industry.

Use of Bread as Animal Feed Forces Rationing

WS0808090294 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0700 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] The city of Zhytkovichi has introduced a rationing system for the sale of bread to citizens. The city has been forced to take such a step due to a shortage of bread.

As Aleksey Mikalayevich Stepanenka, chairman of the Zhytkovichi Rayon Executive Committee, has told one of our correspondents, not long ago there approximately 28 tonnes of bread baked here per day, which more than met their physical needs. Although the production of bread has recently been increased to 35 tonnes per day, due to higher demand, bread has still been disappearing from stores.

Because bread remains one of the cheapest products—it costs much less than even mixed animal fodder—people have begun to feed it to livestock. Every month, 1 billion rubles are allotted for bread subsidies from the Zhytkovichi rayon budget. According to specialists, the high demand for bread will decrease when its price approaches that of mixed fodder.

Moldova

Parliament Adopts Constitution

LD0508215194 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2008 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Video report from Moldova by correspondent Mikhay Sokirke, including recorded remarks by Dumitru Motspan, first deputy chairman of the Moldovan Parliament; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Sokirke] The Parliament of Moldova has ended its last working week before the recess, one might say, in high spirits. After all kinds of reviews and amendments, taking into consideration the requests from fellow-countrymen and the present political situation, and holding examinations by international experts, the new Constitution, which has consolidated the republic's independence, has been adopted.

[Motspan] Article 13 of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova clearly states that the Moldovan language is the state language of the Republic of Moldova. We also consider that the new Article 111 is a democratic article. It envisages the granting of a special status or statuses for certain regions in Moldova where other ethnic groups are the predominant population.

[Sokirke] Not everybody thinks this way. The parliamentary opposition, which unites the supporters of the People's Front and has 20 seats in the Parliament, did not vote for the Constitution as whole. Many people do not agree with Articles 13 and 111, the state hymn and on the prospects for the development of the republic's national army. That is why it cannot be ruled out that the deputies will have to make quite a few amendments to the basic law of the country.

Dniester Leaders Concerned With 14th Army Pullout

LD0508142194 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1330 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] The leadership of the Supreme Soviet of the Dniester-Moldavian Republic has just issued a statement regarding the decision of the Russian authorities to disband the 14th Army of the Russian armed forces. Boris Akulov, head of the press service of the Supreme Soviet of the Dniester-Moldavian Republic, passed on the statement by phone from Tiraspol:

[Akulov] The leadership of the republic was informed of the decision of the Defense Ministry of the Russian Federation on 2 August during a meeting with Col. Gen. Eduard Vorobyev, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Land Forces . The following clarification was made by the colonel: that the disbandment is linked to the need to have what remains of the 14th Army reflect the real number of troops deployed in the Dniester region.

The leadership of the republic expresses the hope that the decision to reform the administration of the army does not mean the beginning of its withdrawal and is not

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linked to the decision of the Vienna conference of the CSCE on 5 June, which contradicts agreements at the highest level between Russia and Moldova, which stipulate the synchronization of the troop withdrawal with the granting of political status to the Dniester region. The Russian army has been on the territory of the Dniester region for 200 years and is the guarantor of peace and calm in the region and also guarantees a balance of forces in this explosive region. Should it be disbanded, the leadership will take care of the army's personnel. They will enjoy the same political and legal rights as the citizens of the republic.

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Tajikistan

Khatlon Oblast Nominates Rakhmonov for Presidency

LD0608115994 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0500 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] The nomination of candidates for the post of the president of Tajikistan began in the republic today. A short time ago Fazliddin Navruzov, head of press, political, and educational affairs of Khatlon Oblast Executive Committee, told us that the fifth session of the council of people's deputies of Khatlon Oblast of the second convocation began this morning.

The session was opened by Salimov, chairman of the council of people's deputies of Khatlon Oblast. He spoke on the results of the work of the 19th session of the Supreme Council of Tajikistan and the law and decision adopted at the session.

The people's deputies than began discussions on nominating candidates to the post of the president of the Republic of Tajikistan. People's deputies from Yavon, Jilikul, Kulyab, and other rayons of the republic proposed the nomination of Emomali Rakhmonov, head of state and chairman of the Supreme Council of Tajikistan, as candidate for the post of president of Tajikistan.

The fifth session of the council of people's deputies of Khatlon Oblast resolved to nominate Emomali Rakhmonov as candidate for the post of the president.

The people's deputies of Khatlon Oblast are now continuing discussion on other topics. Mahmadsaid Ubaidulloyev, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Tajikistan, and other leaders of the Supreme Council and Council of Ministers committees are attending the work of the session.

We remind you that sessions of councils of people's deputies are continuing in other oblasts of the republic. Only one subject—that is, the nomination of candidates for the presidency—is under discussion. So far only one candidate—Emomali Rakhmonov— has been nominated.

Abduladzhanov Joins Presidential Election Campaign

LD0708173694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1126 GMT 7 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Khudzhand, Tajikistan August 7 TASS—Abdumalik Abduladzhanov, 45, ex-prime minister of Tajikistan and now ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Tajikistan to Russia, has actively joined the electoral campaign before presidential elections in the republic, scheduled for September 25, this year. An extraordinary session of the Leninabad regional soviet (council), which ended almost at midnight on Saturday, supported by the majority of votes the candidature of Abduladzhanov, who comes from that region. 124 out of 164 people's deputies voted for him. His rival Emomali Rakhmonov, head of state and chairman of the republican supreme soviet, was less lucky: he got only 31 votes.

In a short interview after the session, Abduladzhanov described the first round of the electoral campaign as his "small, but important victory" and added that he was not going to give up the struggle.

"If I win the elections, my priority task will be to unite the regions, to establish national peace and to stop the conflict between Tajiks. It is impossible to improve the economic situation without national peace. I am open for the broadest possible, but reasonable cooperation with the opposition," he said.

According to some independent sources, Abduladzhanov has a real chance to be elected president. Aside from the industrially developed regions in the north of Tajikistan, he enjoys the support of the Gorno-Badakhshan region and is well liked by the Russian-speaking population. They remember his statements, when he was prime minister, in support for dual citizenship and for the giving of an official status to the Russian language.

It is also important that Abduladzhanov has strong connections in the Uzbek and Russian corridors of power, as well as in the western business circles. A well-known dissident from Dushanbe told ITAR-TASS that, in his opinion, Abduladzhanov is the man who can unite the nation and prevent the split of the republic.

'Positional' Fighting Continues in Pamir Foothills

LD0808100294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0830 GMT 8 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 8 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—The Pamir region in Tajikistan remains the hottest spot in the republic. The ITAR-TASS correspondent learned today from Vasiliy Likholet, head of the Tajik Defense Ministry's press center, that clustered positional fighting between government army units and opposition formations positioned in mountain gorges that are difficult to access have continued for the past two weeks in Tavildarinskiy Rayon.

The opposition formations are estimated to number several hundred men who are very familiar with the terrain and who have virtually all types of weapons, including recoilless guns and heavy machineguns, as well as surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles.

At the same time the Defense Ministry spokesman noted that government troops are controlling the situation in the area. Two major antigovernment groups were routed in the last few days. The operation to neutralize other opposition detachments is continuing. The Tajik army

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unit deployed in Garmskiy Rayon about 180 km from Dushanbe is on high alert; according to the data available to the Defense Ministry, opposition fighters are concentrating in the area.

Turning to the rumors circulating in Dushanbe about antigovernment groups appearing on the outskirts of the capital, Vasiliy Likholet said these rumors "are deliberately spread by the opposition with the aim of sowing panic among the population."

Russian Border Guard Killed in Attack

LD0508133294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1216 GMT 5 Aug 94

[By KHOVAR Tajik information agency correspondent Igor Akhmedov for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe, 5 Aug—A Russian border guard was killed today in Khorog, the centre of Gorno-Badakhshan Oblast. The tragedy occurred at 1210 hours local time (0510 GMT) 200 metres from a military unit's checkpoint. An unknown assailant rushed upon the border guard, Ensign Vladimir Zavrazhnykh, and stabbed him with scissors in the region of the heart. The blow proved fatal.

On the same day a servicewoman belonging to the Group of Russian Border Guards Tatyana Ganina was also attacked. She was beaten up by unknown assailants, who inflicted serious injuries to her head.

The correspondent of the Khovar Tajik information agency was informed of these incidents at the Command Headquarters of the group of Russian Border Guards in Tajikistan.

Supreme Council Welcomes Talks With Opposition

LD0508165694 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Video report by correspondent Mikhail Nikulin; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Nikulin] The results of the second round of the inter-Tajik talks in Tehran were at the center of attention of the meeting of the republic's Supreme Council Presidium today in Dushanbe. As the head of state, Emomali Rakhmonov, said, although the talks did not bring the expected results, they were useful. The parties had made their positions clear to the international community. It has been decided to continue the talks in order to achieve national reconciliation as soon as possible.

[Begin Sh. Zakurov, head of the Tajik government delegation, recording] I am happy to say that the Supreme Council Presidium supported our proposal and instructed the committees of the Supreme Council to look at and prepare proposals linked to the preparation of a decree on clemency and an amnesty for persons who took part in the events in question. We will also look at raising the level of the delegation at the inter-Tajik talks. I think that if we manage to implement these steps, then in the near future we will be able to lift the crisis that exists between the parties. [end recording]

[Nikulin] In the meantime, the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border remains tense, especially in the Pamir sectors. Units of the irreconcilable opposition are concentrating here. In the opinion of military observers, the path is being paved for new acts of terror aimed at disrupting September's referendum on the draft constitution and presidential elections.

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Armenia

Turkey's Ciller Ready To Establish Ties

LD0508213694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1730 GMT 5 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan August 5 TASS—Tansu Ciller, prime minister of Turkey expressed the readiness of her country to establish "any relations, including diplomatic, with Armenia" provided Armenia "pulls out its forces from Azerbaijan and gives a million of Azeris the possibility to return to their homes".

The head of the Turkish Government made this statement in an exclusive interview with the "AZG" Armenian newspaper which was published in today's issue.

"The only thing we expect from Armenia is that it should display respect for international norms and principles and recognize integrity of the borders and territories of Azerbaijan", Tansu Ciller emphasised.

"If Armenia adheres to these principles and stops seizing Azeri territories, there will be no barriers to the normal development of our relations with this country which is contiguous with Turkey," the Turkish premier pointed out.

Yerevan Reports Cease-Fire Violations

NC0508163394 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Dear listeners, we now present a report on the latest situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The NKR Defense Army Headquarters has disclosed that the situation on the front line has been relatively peaceful since 9 May. However, occasional shooting by the Azerbaijan military forces has disrupted the peaceful situation from time to time. The Armenian side has fully complied with the military command headquarters' instructions that the troops must refrain from taking appropriate action when they are fired on.

Meanwhile, the same source has disclosed that Azerbaijan has moved to deploy reinforcements and military hardware on a large scale in areas that are close to the front line. Azerbaijan's military forces have been observed to carry out military exercises in the region.

According several other sources, Azerbaijan has acquired arms and military equipment from foreign countries, particularly from Turkey. It seems that Azerbaijan's leaders are maintaining that republic's war preparations.

The situation on the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan is tense. Azerbaijan's military units not only fire on Armenia's border areas with various types of weapons but also launch attacks and raids whenever they find an opportunity to do so. Regardless of the fact that the sides have officially signed a cease-fire agreement, Azerbaijan's military units have not refrained from their disgusting activities against our republic. They have fired on Idzhevanskiy, Tavushskiy, Noyemberyanskiy, and Sisianskiy Rayons.

An incident occurred on 3 August. Azerbaijan's military forces fired on Armenia's southwestern border. The defense positions in Shagat and Brnakot in Sisianskiy Rayon were intensely shelled by artillery units at 1800. Later, the enemy's infantry units advanced on Brnakot. The fighting continued until 2130. The military units that advanced from the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic were evicted from our republic's border at the end of the fighting. There were casualties on both sides. The troops in Nakhichevan [words indistinct].

Ter-Petrosyan Criticizes Opposition

NC0608082594

[Editorial Report] Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian at 1600 GMT on 5 August carries a 110-minute recorded report by Lida Gazaryan on the meeting of the senior officials of the law enforcement organs of the Republic at the government hall of congresses today.

Gazaryan begins her report by saying that with President Levon Ter-Petrosyan's decree on 14 January 1994, the State Directorate for National Security was restructured. Another decree was signed on 1 August envisaging the inspection of enterprises and organizations to remove serious impediments in the way of the future development of the economy. The decree also dissolves the State Property Department affiliated to the Interior Ministry. The same decree has empowered State Minister for Defense and Security Vazgen Sargisyan to coordinate the work of the law enforcement organs.

Lida Gazaryan says that these changes place new responsibilities on the law enforcement organs. These issues were discussed at today's meeting in which President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and other officials took part.

After a statement by State Minister Vazgen Sargisyan on the restructuring issues within the law enforcement organs, Ter-Petrosyan starts his speech at around 1640 GMT. Ter-Petrosyan defends the January restructuring he introduced in the security organs.

Addressing the meeting, Ter-Petrosyan devotes the second part of his speech to the domestic situation in Armenia, which he says has a direct bearing on state structures and functions of the law enforcement organs.

Noting that the opposition remains silent when the government fails but starts criticizing when there is stability and the government is successful, the president says that the opposition's activity "proves that we have never been as successful as today." He says "by trying to

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create an illusion of political tension" the opposition aims at "sowing distrust against the authorities."

He adds that the opposition in Armenia and in all the republics experiencing the same processes as Armenia changes its tactics according to the time and conditions. He says the "opposition often resorts to attacking each loop in the government separately." He goes on to say that last summer the Armenian president was the target of the opposition, when "a number of parties started collecting signatures for a referendum to express a lack of confidence in the Republic's president." He says that instead of the required 200,000 signatures, opposition members collected only 70,000. Having failed in this, they targeted the government by submitting a no-confidence vote. This, too, failed. The opposition's next target was General Prosecutor Ardavazt Hakopyan. This, too, failed, upon which they targeted Interior Minister Vano Siradegyan. They are still targeting him.

The president then specifically criticizes his former national security adviser, Ashot Manucharyan, and says that during the rallies the opposition's slogans "are 99 percent swearing and 1 percent [word indistinct] about the minimum consumer basket. They promise and are convinced that once we leave office, the following day the people will buckle under the weight of these baskets while carrying them home. I want to take this opportunity to state, and I said this in my New Year's address, that the emptiness of the consumer basket is the only truth aired at these rallies. This is absolute truth, which no one can deny. Yes, we are unable to secure the minimum consumer basket. This is our pain and misfortune, but the bitter truth. No one, no government, will achieve that as long as we are at war, as long as our people have made their choice in favor of this great national problem and have voluntarily placed themselves under deprivation. There cannot be success on the battlefield and a full consumer basket at the same time. There will be either one or the other. Anything else is demagogy, unethical, and treason, not only against the present authorities but the future ones. A frightening precedence of state tradition is being created. No matter how much they swear at present authorities, they have to swear even more at the next government." The president adds: "With such methods, tactics, lies, and calumnies they are emasculating our future government structures and the future of our statehood."

The president says that "the only truth at rallies is the consumer basket," and adds that "peace is the only key to solving the problem of that basket. There is no other key. If there is peace we will have a full basket, if there is no peace that basket will be less full. I think that the peace in the last three months is the most convincing proof of that. For the first time in four years, there is a smile on people's faces in Karabakh and Armenia. People are inspired. The physical embodiment of it could be seen in the economic field, trade, and stabilization of the national currency."

The president criticizes the opposition's call to rouse the people so they can "attain their supreme goals and fulfill their international mission." The president says that this kind of policy implemented by Elchibey in Azerbaijan and Gamsakhurdia in Georgia lead those countries into disaster. He says: "Such a movement with such a spirit and slogans will not give our people more than Gamsakhurdia and Elchibey gave to their own peoples."

The president adds: "The next promise of the opposition is to bestow that happy fate of Israel on our people. Armenia should turn into an Israel. It should live in peace two years, fight two months, and again live in peace two years. See what a fortune and fate is being promised to our people." After noting that Israel's situation is not similar to Armenia's, the president says: "The wish of unending war for our people with all their neighbors—though that was Israel's fate, sometimes it fought against all neighbors simultaneously—and not at the cost of its [the opposition's] own blood and life but at the cost of the people and their sons, shows what sort of adventurists we are dealing with."

The president says the opposition parties are trying to satisfy their injured ambitions at the cost of the people's blood. He adds: "But let no one hope that our people will be crazy enough to fulfill the personal ambitions of these people, who have lost their bearings to such a degree." He adds that this danger should neither be exaggerated nor minimized.

The president says: "Karabakh defeated Azerbaijan only because of the frequent internal upheavals in Azerbaijan. Georgians lost Abkhazia for the same reason. If we want to lose not only Karabakh but also Zangezur [southern Armenia] and other territories, then there is no shorter route to it [than the opposition's designs]. I think that our people have understood this danger well. The people need no new proof. Georgia and Azerbaijan are the best proof. If we fail to take a lesson from the bitter developments taking place in front of us, then we do not deserve to exist as a nation. But I am sure that what happened in Georgia and Azerbaijan will never happen in (?Armenia) because our people are far more sensitive towards danger. They have an enviable ability to sense danger and unite. This danger is well sensed by the people and government in Nagorno-Karabakh. The Nagorno-Karabakh authorities have strongly warned the organizers of this new movement about the possible dangers that might threaten Nagorno-Karabakh in case of internal upheavals. It said all responsibility will rest with this movement."

The president says that at a time when a real chance has emerged to successfully complete the process of the peaceful resolution to the Karabakh crisis, the opposition is rejecting this peace process and is trying to take advantage of a possible internal (?collapse) in Armenia.

He says another danger is that the rallies might get out of control and become ungovernable.

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The president adds that, unlike the parties organizing such rallies, Hnchaks and Dashnaks have fully adopted the rules of the parliamentary game.

He says: "The Nagorno-Karabakh situation both in military and diplomatic terms and from the viewpoint of achieving an honorable peace has never been as good as today. Armenia is the only republic of the former Soviet Union where the economic decline has been halted and a slow but steady increase in industrial output has started. It is the only republic to do so." He then goes on to enumerate economic improvements achieved by using domestic resources alone, unlike other republics that receive outside help. He cites the stabilization of the dram as the most important indicator of economic improvement.

The president "thanks" those who organize rallies because by such actions they are forcing state bodies, security organs, all the state structures, and all the constructive forces in the Supreme Council to unite and dedicate themselves to the consolidation of Armenian statehood and to the "just solution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem, and the well-being of our people."

He finally concludes: "Let no one entertain the idea that with such lies, intrigues, and searches for cracks in our state structure they can dissolve our government. Let no one entertain the idea that under the pressure of the opposition and other forces the Armenian President can sacrifice just any official. The prime minister, general prosecutor, and the interior minister will remain in their posts as long as they continue to prove that they are able to discharge their duties."

Azerbaijan

Oil Workers Decide To Continue Strike

NC0508190794 Baku TURAN in English 1717 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Baku (August 5) TURAN—Today at the oilmen's Trade Union's session a decision to sustain the strike and to resume works was adopted. The oilmen, who have been on a strike since July 28 came to that decision after their economic demands had been partially fulfilled by the government.

The oilmen had met with premier Suret Husseynov, who promised them to take concrete measures on the fulfilling their demands within 3 or 4 days. Today they had started to fulfil some demands of oilmen, that is the allocation of food products, of uniform and partial payment of wage, according to Latif Sultanov, deputy of Trade Union Committee.

The same source note that a new meeting of oilmen with prime minister is to take place soon. A Conference of oilmen of Oil and Gas Producing Entity named after May 28, where a final decision on the strike will be adopted, is to take place on August 11.

Centrist Parties Support Strikers

NC0608185494 Baku TURAN in English 1746 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Baku, August 6 (TURAN)—"Bloc of centrist parties, including the Social Democratic Party of Azerbaijan (ASDP) adopted a statement in which they supported the strike of oilmen," TURAN was told by member of ASDP's Bureau of Central Committee Zardusht Alizade.

Alizade noted that on the background of clumsy economic policy of the country's leadership, continuing impoverishment of the population is observed. According to him, a corruption is flourishing in the highest echelon. "Choice and placing of personnel are conducted not according to principle of professionalism, but according to personal relations. [no end quotation marks as received]

According to Zardusht Alizade, under the conditions of worsening the social state of the country , the social explosion might take place.

Alizade said that presently the leadership of the country are looking for ways of maintaining and strengthening their power, instead of the solution the global problems.

Premier Meets Workers

NC0508203894 Baku TURAN in English 1717 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Baku (August 5) TURAN—Last evening Prime-Minister, Suret Guseynov, met with representatives of oil-industry workers from 28 May oil and gas extraction Department and Bibi-Heybat oil-field. As was earlier reported, the workers of these enterprises went on strike on July 28 forwarding economic demands.

During the meeting oil-industry workers severely criticized the leadership of SOCAR [Azerbaijan's National Oil Company] for indifference to their problems. The representatives of workers said that there are no normal labour conditions at the oil-fields and platforms, workers do not receive protective outer garments, food and wages. All the above-mentioned problems worsened the situation of oil-industry workers are they were compelled to go on strike.

The oil-industry workers demand wage increase up to 100,000 manats per month, indexation and providing them with food products and protective outer garments.

Premier Suret Guseynov said that he knows all their probelms. He added that in April, 1994 he ordered SOCAR to take measures for improvement of socio-economic situation of oil-industry workers and providing them with all necessary equipment.

Suret Guseynov asked oil-industry workers to stop strike taking into the fact that Azerbaijan is in the state war. He promised "to attract all resources of the republic within 3-4 days and to settle their primary demands".

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Last evening Premier Suret Guseynov met with the leadership of SOCAR as well.

However, not only oil industry but all spheres of economy in Azerbaijan are in the standstill. In this context the Azeri government together with President Aliyev bear responsibility for such situation.

Agreement Reached With Iran on Gas Pipeline

LD0508165894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1604 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Baku and Tehran have reached an agreement on the construction of a gas pipeline from Iran to Nakhichevan (an Azerbaijani enclave experiencing a severe lack of energy resources due to the economic blockade on the part of neighboring Armenia), chairman of Azerbaijan's State Oil Company (ASOC) Natik Aliyev told the Petroleum Information Agency.

He said the issue of laying the 72-kilometer long pipeline from the Iranian city of Khoi to the Nakhichevan city of Dzhulfa was discussed during the recent ASOC visit to Tehran. Aliyev pointed out that representatives of ASOC and of Iran's Oil Company had coordinated practically all aspects of this project. In the near term it is to be submitted to Azerbaijani and Iranian presidents for consideration.

At the same time the issue of payment for the shipments of Iranian gas is still open. Tehran proposes exchanging it for Azerbaijani diesel fuel while Baku is not satisfied with this option.

The agreement on the shipment of 1.6 million tonnes of diesel fuel from Azerbaijan to Iran was signed last autumn. In accordance with this contract Baku shipped 500,000 tonnes of fuel to Tehran over the first half of 1994.

World Bank Grants Loan for Gas Pipeline to Turkey

NC0608183694 Baku TURAN in English 1746 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Baku, August 6 (TURAN)—The State company "Azerigas" worked out the draft of programme for development of Azerbaijan's gas industry, which in September-October is scheduled to be discussed by the Azeri Government.

The draft of programme provides for measures for natural gas economy, usage of meters in enterprises and apartments, building and reconstruction of underground reservoirs, gas pipe-lines and the other objects for storage, transportation and usage of gas. The draft of programme includes 11 points.

The meters are planned to be produced on Ganja's machine-building plant. Reconstruction of underground reservoirs will allow to store 3 billion cubic metres of gas.

World Bank intends to grant 150 million dollars credit to Azerbaijan for the term of 15-20 years. Beginning in 1996 and every year Azerigas company will be receiving 30 million dollars of the whole credit sum.

Azerbaijan proposes to use reservoirs for safe gas transportation from Turkmenistan to Turkey.

As was earlier reported, in accordance with intergovernmental agreement signed by Turkmenistan and Turkey, every year Turkmenistan must deliver 25 billion cubic metres of natural gas to Turkey. The gas is expected to be transported through Iran's territory. However, due to lack of gas reservoirs in Iran, gas transportation through Iran can be complicated.

For transportation of Turkmenistani gas to Turkey it is planned to build gas pipe-line 2,000 kilometres long and 15 compressor stations. The works can be completed in four years.

Turkish Envoy Says Only CSCE Agreement Acceptable

NC0608184394 Baku TURAN in English 1746 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Baku, August 6 (TURAN)—"The agreement concerning the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, which has been working out at present, can be presented only by the CSCE and not by Russia", Turkey's Ambassador to Azerbaijan, Altan Karamanoglu, told TURAN's correspondent. Russia must take part in preparation of this agreement like the U.S., Turkey, Sweden and the other CSCE members do.

"We think that the major political agreement must include the following points: liberation of occupied territories, return of refugees to their native lands, and then discussion of Nagorno-Karabakh's status. The UN as well as the CSCE confirmed that Nagorno-Karabakh belongs to Azerbaijan", added the Ambassador.

As was earlier reported, Vladimir Kazimirov said that there is no alternative to Russian settlement plan. However, Turkey's ambassador said that a year ago the U.S., Turkey, Russia and Italy prepared settlement plan "and now Vladimir Kazimirov sets it up for Russia's one. It is clear that Russia tries to show that the other countries bear no relations to this plan. Russia, first of all, takes care of its own interests. However, at last Moscow realized that it cannot do anything in Azerbaijan and Armenia without the CSCE agreement. Then Russia tried to realize its plan within the framework of the CSCE but in vain".

According to Karamanoglu, Turkish-Russian relations are developing "quite normally" and "there are perspectives for further expanding of bilateral economic and the other relations".

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Parliament Speaker, U.S. Envoy Discuss Issues

NC0408203394 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 4 Aug 94

[Text] Rasul Guliyev, chairman of the Republic's Supreme Soviet, today received the U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan Richard Kauzlarich at the latter's request.

[Begin Gulsefa Ahmedova recording] The head of the parliament Rasul Guliyev noted that he was pleased with the diplomatic missions in Azerbaijan for not having remained indifferent to the processes taking place in our republic and for carrying out work to help Azerbaijan.

The chairman of the parliament particularly stressed the importance of objectively informing the world through the embassies about the calamities caused by the war into which our people have been forcibly dragged.

In his turn, Richard Kauzlarich spoke on the importance of the work carried out recently by the Azerbaijani Parliament on foreign policy, expansion of interparliamentary relations, and on laws and decisions aimed at finding a way out of a difficult economic situation.

In positively assessing the parliament's activity, the ambassador noted that the narrowing of the gap between the CSCE and Russian plans for resolving the ongoing conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the solution of certain problems relating to the agreements to be signed between the Republic and the oil companies are essential.

A number of other problems of mutual interest were also discussed during the meeting.

Armenian Artillery Shells Nakhichevan Republic

NC0508190394 Baku TURAN in English 1717 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Nakhichevan (August 5) TURAN—On August 4 beginning in 18.00 Armenian artillery have been shelling the settlements of Bata-Bat and Shalvarly in the Shakhbuz region of Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic for four hours running, reports the press service of Supreme Soviet of Nakhichevan. As a result of shelling, the soldier of the National army, Vugar Gasymov, and 11-year-old citizen of the Shakhbuz region, Ramil Ubushev, died. Another two soldiers are wounded and the damages are reported.

Having observed the cease-fire agreement, the Azeri party have not opened return fire, reports the press service of Nakhichevan's Supreme Soviet.

Georgia

Yeltsin Letter Pledges Support for Georgia

LD0508135394 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1200 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Text] Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze received a letter from Russian President Boris Yeltsin saying: "Esteemed Eduard Ambrosyevich, I suppose that you have already been informed about the results of the Naples meeting of the world's leading countries. Russia participated not only in the discussion of political issues but also in the discussion of many aspects of economic cooperation. I would like to stress that at the meeting in Naples Russia raised the issue of cooperation between the CIS states and the developed countries. I have touched on the issues of the need for broad international cooperation which would restore the economy of the Transcaucasus and stabilize the situation in this region—the problem which you discussed with me before the Naples meeting."

Further on in the letter, a political statement by the "group of eight countries" is given, together with the point of view reflecting the stand of the CIS states on many principle issues. The statement, says in particular that the regional organizations can contribute to peacekeeping under the regulations of the United Nations and the principles of the CSCE. The CIS states take this stand when dealing with mutual efforts for regulating the conflict in many regions of the CIS. The resolution adopted shortly after the Naples meeting by the UN Security Council supporting the peacekeeping operation in Abkhazia is a significant practical step which reinforces this stand.

The letter says that Russia's general interest in Georgia is also considered in the economic communique of the G-7 countries.

To conclude Boris Yeltsin assures the Georgian leader that Russia, as a fully-fledged participant of the political [as received] group of "eight countries", will persevere to achieve real progress in this connection.

120 Georgian Soldiers Withdrawn From Abkhazia

LD0708171294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1349 GMT 7 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Manvelov]

[Text] Moscow August 7 TASS—Georgia withdrew 120 soldiers from the Kodor Gorge in Abkhazia on Sunday, a Russian Defence Ministry duty officer told ITAR-TASS by telephone.

The officer said the withdrawal of Georgian troops from the area is expected to be completed within the next few days.

On Monday, August 8, Russian peace-keepers will set up a base in the village of Lata in the Kodor Gorge and start patrolling the region.

Abkhaz Spokesman on Joint Action To Resolve Conflict

LD0508221494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1430 GMT 5 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

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[Excerpts] Moscow, 5 Aug—The problem of armed formations in the Kodori gorge will be resolved only by political methods, Sergey Bagapsh, first deputy chairman of Abkhazia's Council of Ministers, has said. "Abkhazia adheres to the joint agreements on nonviolent actions to the letter and will try to resolve the problem only by peaceful and political means," he told an ITAR-TASS correspondent today.

In Bagapsh's opinion, the peacekeeping forces are playing a special role in untying the Kodori knot of tension, and their presence in the mountain region is a good start for joint actions to normalize the situation. "The Russian peacekeeping troops will bring peace in the region, and this will create an opportunity to step up the solution of the refugees problem," the Abkhaz spokesman said. [passage omitted]

The sides are looking for joint ways of settling the Abkhaz- Georgian conflict; however, their views on restoring peace in the region do not always coincide. The Abkhaz side thinks that stepping up the process of the return of refugees will destabilize the situation and might provoke a wave of armed confrontation. Moreover, it accuses Georgia of violating the agreements on withdrawal of armed formations from the Kodori Gorge.

Georgia, on the contrary, thinks that delaying the decision on the return of refugees might create an explosive situation and provoke thousands of people to return spontaneously to their homes.

In the opinion of Major General Yuriy Kozlov, head of the united headquarters of the command of the peacekeeping forces group, delaying the process of the return of refugees might push them toward violating the regime in the security zone. The Russian troops involved in the peacekeeping operation might become a target for provocations by extremists and by the forces trying to belittle the role of Russia in establishing peace in the conflict zone.

On 3 August, the peacekeeping forces deployed in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict began patrolling the Kodori Gorge.

Peacekeepers Said Ignoring Abkhaz Police Atrocity

LD0708205994 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1950 GMT 7 Aug 94

[Text] SAKINFORMI correspondent Tamaz Rogava has provided us with the following information from the Zugdidi-based information supply center for the political settlement of the Abkhaz conflict.

There were no complications in the conflict zone today and yesterday. The situation remained calm.

Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia; Zurab Erkvania, chairman of the Council of Ministers of Abkhazia; Givi Lominadze, chairman of the provisional committee for emergencies in western Georgia and minister of state, and leaders of several rayons in Abkhazia met today with representatives of refugees and displaced people. The meeting discussed issues relating to the organization of the return of refugees to Gali Rayon. Zurab Erkvania and Otar Patsatsia answered numerous questions from refugees.

Quoting reliable sources, Tamaz Rogava also reported that Abkhaz police based in the Gali Rayon village of Nabakevi perfidiously killed Ramaz Artashelia, an inhabitant of the village of (Tagiloni). They burst into his house and sprayed him with bullets. The correspondent noted that representatives of the Russian peacekeeping forces deployed in the rayon had failed to show any reaction in connection with this incident.

Abkhaz Cabinet Chairman on Conflict, Refugees

LD0608191094 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0500 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Statement by Zurab Erkvania, chairman of the autonomous Republic of Abkhazia Council of Ministers and chairman of the Defense Council; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Since the beginning of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict, the leadership of the Georgian Republic has adhered to the civilized way of settling the conflict. Proceeding from humane ideals aimed at stopping the bloodshed in Abkhazia and creating safety for the children of all nationalities, Georgia has taken steps that, not altogether groundlessly, have been considered as a compromise detrimental to Georgian statehood. These steps have caused extreme confrontation of points of view among the public. I think that, so far, this has been the only correct political course, which has—in the long run—brought us peacekeeping operations in Abkhazia. Great efforts have been made by the world union, the Russian Federation, and Georgia's great friends.

Now that hundreds of thousands of forcibly displaced people have gone through the Golgotha of pain, awaiting with great patience the political settlement of the conflict, the world has finally recognized our truth, and Georgia has accurately fulfilled the responsibility that it has undertaken.

Attempts by the Abkhaz side to procrastinate on the return of refugees by every means is nothing less than a disregard for the world union and those states that signed the agreements. Moreover, terrorizing of the population, murder, and plundering are continuing in the whole of Abkhazia and the Gali rayon too, which is included in the zone of the peacekeeping operation. Human rights are being breached. The Abkhaz side is forcing the population to leave the region. The demand by the Gudauta leadership to link the talks on the return of refugees with the withdrawal of the Georgian Army and the allegedly armed local population is sheer cynicism. However, under the bilateral agreement signed in Moscow on 14 May, the above issues are stated clearly

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and precisely, and its revision can only be targeted toward wrecking the peacekeeping operation.

Neither is it clear to us why the military observers have not been allowed in the Gali rayon, why the single headquarters of the peacekeeping forces' command have not been created, and why the peacekeeping forces have not been deployed according to the plan given in the agreement.

The beginning of the second stage of the peacekeeping operation and the return of the refugees, which has been the last shred of hope for the forcibly displaced population, and the procrastination of the above process could trigger a tragedy that could have unpredictable consequences, wreck peacekeeping efforts, and cause large-scale bloodshed. It is not just the Abkhaz side, but every party that has signed the agreements and that could have saved people and restored peace in Abkhazia and has not done so, that will be held responsible for the tragedy.

There must be no alternative to the return of refugees, and the problems of the Kodori gorge must not wreck the great efforts made for a peaceful settlement. All the more, it must not trigger a new confrontation.

Russian Troops Disarm Guerrillas in Abkhazia

LD0808135894 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1000 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Text] Gali, 8 Aug—The Russian Federation's peacekeepers in the southern security zone which were specially created for the settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict, have disarmed the Georgian "Abkhazia" and "Gali" guerrilla units. These guerrilla units operated on the territory of Gali in the Georgian-Abkhaz zone before the start of the peacekeeping operations and were comprised mainly of inhabitants of Gali rayon.

Turkish Military Observers To Be Deployed in Abkhazia

LD0808152894 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 8 Aug 94

[Excerpts] The Turkish press reports that at the request of Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze, Turkish military observers are to be deployed in Georgia. The Turkish Government has already made the necessary decision. [passage omitted]

It is known that the Turkish Government has already made a decision on the Turkish military's participation in the UN mission's activities. The UN is monitoring the cease-fire between Georgians and Abkhazians in the region.

According to Georgia's request, the participation of Turkish military observers in the UN observers' forces, which were set up last year under the Security Council's decision 878 on the cease-fire between the Abkhaz separatists and the Georgian government, only became possible after the UN [Security Council] increased the number of military observers in this region.

Georgia has raised the issue several times of Turkey's involvement as an observer in the peacekeeping mission in this region. Eduard Shevardnadze again reiterated his appeal this June.

According to experts, the Turkish observers' mission will not be large but it will be very significant. It is not yet known how many vacancies out of 136 vacancies for the military observers who have been entrusted with the peacekeeping mission in Georgia, the UN will allot to Turkey.

Russia, UN Urged To Persuade Abkhazia To Resume Talks

LD0608171394 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1337 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Tbilisi [do date as received]—Today, 6 August, the Georgian delegation to the quadripartite commission on the return of refugees and displaced persons to Abkhazia issued a statement saying that the commission, which was established in accordance with a quadrilateral agreement signed in Moscow on 4 April 1994, is unable to carry out its humanitarian duties and to assist the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons to Abkhazia.

The reason for this is that the Abkhaz side has systematically been raising issues that are beyond the competence of the quadripartite commission and has failed to attend recent commission meetings. All of this constitutes a deliberate policy aimed at delaying and wrecking the process of the return of refugees to their homes.

The Georgian side states with regret that Russia has failed in its efforts to persuade the Abkhaz side to return to the negotiating table. It calls on Eduard Brunner, the UN secretary general's special envoy; Boris Pastukhov, Russian Federation deputy foreign minister and the Russian Federation president's special representative in the area of conflict; and UNHCR's Mr. (Rahman), chairman of the quadripartite commission, to do everything possible to persuade the Abkhaz side to resume work in the quadripartite commission with the aim of solving the refugee issue as soon as possible. This will significantly speed up the process of full-scale settlement.

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Defense Minister Meets UN Observer HQ Head

LD0508173194 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 5 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General Vardiko Nadibaidze, Georgian defense minister, today received Colonel Lazlo Fogac, head of the UN observers' headquarters in Georgia, and Lt. Col. Johanson. They discussed UN Security Council Resolution 937. Col. Fogac said that the resolution had enabled the secretary general to increase the number of UN observers in Georgia to 136 military observers and to widen the mission's mandate, which means that UN military observers will be able to participate more actively in peacekeeping operations in the conflict zone.

Lt. Gen. Nadibaidze thanked Col. Fogac and expressed confidence that the United Nation's latest resolution, which once again confirms Georgia's territorial integrity and sovereignty, will help to settle the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict and give a strong impetus to peacekeeping operations in this region. [passage omitted]

Sigua: Authorities Opposed to Army Development

LD0608183594 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1400 GMT 6 Aug 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 6 Aug—Former Georgian Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua, a member of the Georgian parliament and president of the Rustaveli Society, has said that Gali rayon will revert to the Republic of Georgia in the near future, but it will be very difficult for Georgia to regain control over the rest of the Abkhaz region.

According to Sigua, above all, Georgia needs a mobile and well- armed army of between 15,000 and 20,000 troops. In his opinion, the present Georgian leadership's motto is: "Let us not create a Georgian Army". This is a deliberate policy that takes into account the fact that the restoration of a new union in the form of the CIS is under way. The new union will once again have a single army.

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